Australian Government
Cotton Research and Development Corporation

Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

FINAL REPORT 2006

If you are participating in the presentations this year, please provide a written report and a copy of your final report presentation by 31 October.

Part 1 - Summary Details

Please use your TAB key to complete Parts 1 & 2.

CRDC Project Number:
OR Cotton CRC Project Number: **5.01.09**

Project Title: Cotton Industry Development Extension Officer - Border Rivers

Project Commencement Date: 01/07/05 **Project Completion Date:** 30/06/06

CRDC Program: 1 People and Knowledge
OR CRC Program: The Adoption

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Part 3 – Final Report Guide (due 31 October 2006)

(The points below are to be used as a guideline when completing your final report.)

Background

1. Outline the background to the project.

   The Macintyre Valley has a reputation of being one of the most innovative and forward thinking cotton growing valleys in Australia. With over 80 growers and more than 80,000 ha of developed irrigation, the valley has a strong commitment to the continuous improvement of cotton production in a sustainable environment. The Macintyre valley has played a leading role in the development and implementation of Integrated pest management on an area wide basis. Growers, consultants and servicing agribusiness in the area are continually looking for support to improve every aspect of their enterprise.

   In the past, the adoption of new technologies, AWM, IPM, integrated disease and weed managment and BMP have been identified as playing a large role in meeting the cotton industry's objectives of maintaining and promoting profitable practices. Furthermore, growers are becoming more aware of the need to manage the natural resources on their farm to ensure sustainability. Continual improvement in these areas will prove beneficial of the industry as a whole and the communities/areas in which cotton is grown. Industry stakeholders often look toward the industry development officer to help co-ordinate, organise and provide technical support for these issues, assisting with a number of activities including grower meetings, publications, field days and farm walks.

   Many growers also carry out on-farm trials and demonstrations to help them fine tune management. An extension officer within the cotton growing areas may act to promote these practices through collaboration with researchers and growers. For example, an extension officer can take a role as an intermediary, enabling on farm trials and demonstration work to continue on a coordinated basis, as well as ensuring the latest research is incorporated into these trials.

Objectives

2. List the project objectives and the extent to which these have been achieved.

   To extend and promote the adaptation and adoption of new technologies into sound management practices in the Border Rivers region including the Macintyre Valley and Mungindi areas.

   - Organised and facilitated meetings of the Trial IRMS troubleshooting committee
   - Kept growers and consultants informed with meetings, field days, media publications and Cotton Tales
   - Assisted researchers and consultants with data collection and co-ordination

- Liaised with local Cotton Australia Grower Service Manager and assisted in the implementation of BMP as needed.
- Continued the promotion of BMP, IPM, AWM, good farm hygiene and improved WUE

Outcomes:

- Increased confidence in IPM and AWM
- Increased community perception of the cotton industry and pesticide use
- Increased adoption and confidence in BMP

To develop a framework of regional trials/demonstrations/field days (in liaison with researchers) as part of a group adoption process to facilitate better communication between farmers, advisers and researchers from government and agribusiness.

- Carried out a Potassium and Phosphorus fertiliser trial
- Carried out a foliar fertiliser trial
- Soil and nutrition field day
- Updates in Cotton Tales
- Collaborated with phosphate and potassium summer scholarship project

Outcomes:

- Increased knowledge of fertiliser requirements for cotton production
- Increased knowledge of soil health issue for cotton areas

Provide a coordinating and supportive role for existing and new AWM groups and to promote IPM practices and improve grower learning through these groups. To organise AWM meetings in conjunction with grower representatives and to facilitate discussions between growers and consultants for improved communication on issues relating to cotton production.

- Assisted with the direction of the groups and the co-ordination and facilitation of meetings including resources and guest speakers whilst leaving ownership of the groups with the growers
- A number of successful AWM meetings were very well attended. Each meeting had 4 guest speakers covering a range of production topics

Outcomes:

- Increased confidence in AWM
- Increased communication between growers

To take a lead role in information transfer with the region's growers associations, and to assist growers in the identification and prioritisation of research, development and extension needs and the adaption of existing technology for local application.

- In collaboration with growers and consultants developed a regional extension plan and plan activities for the season
- Organised field days, trials, farm walks and seminars on an as-needed basis about insect pests. Topics included beneficial identification farm walks, biopesticides and transgenic varieties
- Kept growers informed of IPM through Border Rivers Cotton Tales
- Promoted Come Clean – Go Clean
- An active contact for disease inquiries including samples of plants that need testing for pathogens
- Assisted Wayne O'Neill with his seasonal disease survey
- Assisted David Nehl with the long-term Boggabilla disease trials

To develop a strong relationship with the Border Rivers Catchment Association and the CRC for Freshwater Ecology to improve the environmental sustainability of cotton growing land in the Macintyre Valley.

- Maintained a collaborative working relationship with both groups.

To develop a strong link with the RWUEI II officer in facilitate the improvement of water use efficiency in the Macintyre Valley.

- Liaised closely with members of the RWUEI team to increase my knowledge of WUE to better equip myself to deal with enquiries (including irrigation training)
- Continued to develop a strong partnership with the WUE officer, Emma Carrigan

Outcomes:

- Increased knowledge of the factors that influence water use efficiency
- Increased knowledge of the monitoring and scheduling tools available for irrigation management, including equipment and decision support software

To lead and coordinate the fibre quality extension program for the national extension team.

- Informed extension team of fibre quality work in industry
- Collaborated with Rene Vander Sluijs in the organisation and conduct of the Fibre to Fabric Roadshow in Feb 2006.
- Completed survey and developed fibre quality extension plan. Appendix 1 & 2.

Outcome:

- The Fibre quality roadshow was a great success. It was attended by 120 people across the nine valleys. Feedback was very positive and excellent information was collected to begin developing an extension plan for fibre quality.

Methods

3. Detail the methodology and justify the methodology used. Include any discoveries in methods that may benefit other related research.

   There was a number of extension techniques used to meet the outcomes of this project. They included:

   - **Trials and demonstrations** including on farm research and broad scale farm trial with researchers
   - **Group work** including AWM and regional reference groups as well as taking opportunities to deliver information at CGA and CCA meetings
   - **Information delivery** including field days and farm walks, media coverage, Cotton Tales newsletters
   - **Education** including assisting in the running of formal education course such as the IPM short Course and Water Wise as well as organising and facilitating information workshops such as insect sampling methods and climate forecasting programs.

Results

4. Detail and discuss the results for each objective including the statistical analysis of results.

Outcomes for each of the objectives have been outlined in section 2.

Other major activities were:

- 3 months official travel to the USA to complete the Field to Fabric course at Rhodes College in Memphis.
- Organised farms for Sydney university PhD student to sample for disease monitoring
- Liaised with Monsanto and Pulse Australia to finalise "Agronomic management of pigeon peas as a refuge" Document.
- Produced Macintyre Valley regional reports for the Australian Cotton Grower Magazine
- Produced Border Rivers Cotton Tales newsletters
- Completed a Bollgard II and Round-up ready accreditation
- Attended a spray application workshop and promoted Spraypak
- Liaised with several researchers to organise trials for this season. The trials and studies included:
  - Mirid compensation
  - Weekly Trichogramma monitoring
  - Weekly Green vegetable bug surveys
  - Phosphorus and potassium interaction trials

    - Plant density trial
    - Magnet trial
- Coordinated the collection of heliothis eggs for resistance testing purposes.

Outcomes

5. Describe how the project's outputs will contribute to the planned outcomes identified in the project application. Describe the planned outcomes achieved to date.

The planned outcomes for the project were achieved as described in sections 2 & 3.

6. Please describe any:-
   a) technical advances achieved (eg commercially significant developments, patents applied for or granted licenses, etc.);
   b) other information developed from research (eg discoveries in methodology, equipment design, etc.); and
   c) required changes to the Intellectual Property register.

Conclusion

7. Provide an assessment of the likely impact of the results and conclusions of the research project for the cotton industry. What are the take home messages?

Extension Opportunities

8. Detail a plan for the activities or other steps that may be taken:
   (a) to further develop or to exploit the project technology.
   (b) for the future presentation and dissemination of the project outcomes.
   (c) for future research.

   The future role of this IDO extension project was negotiated and determined with the implementation of the 2005 Extension and education Review recommendations.

   Appendix 1 is a discussion paper related to future extension options related to fibre quality issues.

8. A. List the publications arising from the research project and/or a publication plan.
   (NB: Where possible, please provide a copy of any publication/s)

   B. Have you developed any online resources and what is the website address?

Part 4 – Final Report Executive Summary

This project provided for the employment of the Cotton Industry Development Extension Officer, Rebecca Smith, in the Border Rivers region from Inglewood through Goondiwindi to Mungindi. This area has about 80 growers and encompasses approximately 90 000 ha of land developed for cotton production. Her role was to take the products of research from the research centres to the growers, to promote adaptation into individual farming systems and enhance adoption. The focus was on major industry problems, including disease, water and insect pest management and insect pest resistance management, and local priorities negotiated with the growers association. Much of the work involved grower meetings, on-farm trials, demonstrations, field days, and publications.

A strong partnership was established with the regional grower associations, Macintyre Valley and Mungindi, the CCA and Cotton Australia.

The Industry Development Extension Officer is a member of the Cotton CRC industry extension team and maintains close ties with CRC, CRDC and departmental extension and research officers in Queensland and New South Wales.

Priority issues were:

- Disease Management and prevention of spread
- Integrated weed management
- Insect Pest Management, in particular Area Wide Management and secondary pests.
- RWUE
- Nutrition management
- Best Management Practice
- Improvement of environmental sustainability

Rebecca Smith had a focus team leadership role in the National Extension Team related to fibre quality management. She collaborated with CSIRO researcher Rene Vander Sluijs in the organisation and conduct of the successful industry Fibre to Fabric Roadshow in February 2006.

Rebecca was awarded the Australian Cotton Outlook scholarship in 2005 which provided for her three months official travel to the USA to complete the Field to Fabric course at Rhodes College in Memphis.

Rebecca resigned in June 2006 to establish a training consultancy. The future role of this IDO extension project was to be negotiated and determined with the implementation of the 2005 Extension and Education Review recommendations.

Appendix 1

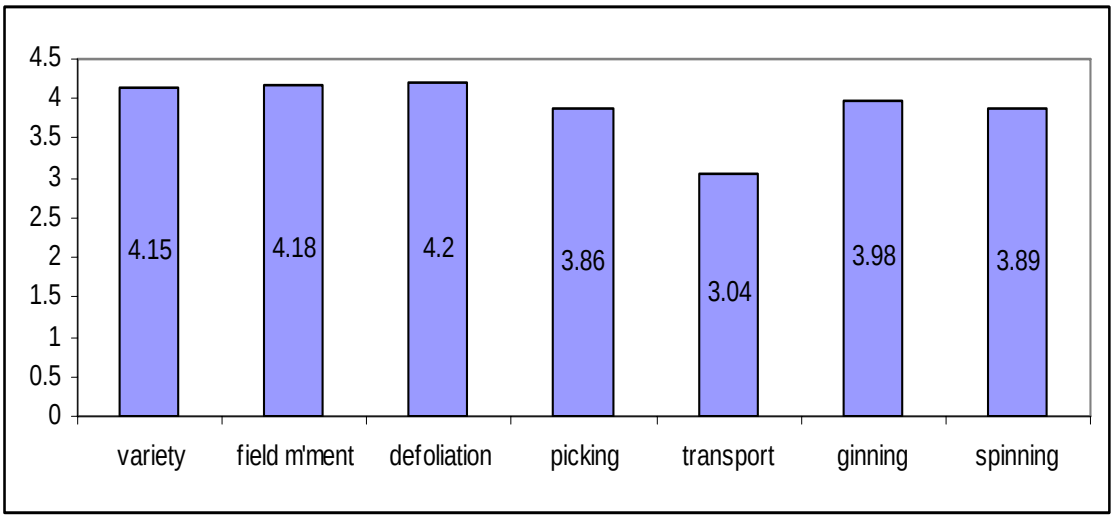
FIBRE QUALITY RESEARCH AND EXTENSION
Where should we be headed?

Results from a survey conducted at the 2006 Fibre to Fabric Roadshow by Rebecca Smith Cotton Industry Development Officer DPI&F, CRDC & CCC CRC

Although fibre quality research has been an integral part of the Australian cotton industry since its inception, there has never been a formalised fibre quality extension effort.

In order to ascertain a direction for fibre quality research and extension a short survey aimed to capture what information growers and industry would like to receive and how they would like to receive it. This survey, complete by 109 people from 9 valleys aimed to be very quick and concise and provide growers and industry the opportunity to make suggestions as to what information they would like to see delivered, in what manner.

In order to determine the initial perceptions of the group, delegates were asked to rank aspects of the production and processing chain as to the impact they have on fibre quality. A rank 1 suggested that the process had NO impact of fibre quality while a rank 5 suggested an extreme impact. Although there wasn't a lot of difference when the response was averaged, results show that it is perceived that Defoliation, Field management and varietal selection have the greatest impact of fibre quality. More extensive review showed that responses were varied which may suggest that many growers and industry are not well informed on what actually impacts on fibre quality.



Attendees were asked to list what they considered to be the most important quality parameters to the end user of Australian cotton. These parameters were clearly defined through the meeting so this question was generally answered as an interpretation of the information presented. Consistent

answers included Length, Strength and micronaire. Many people suggested neps, colour, uniformity, contamination and short fibre content were also important.

How can research and extension help improve the quality of the Australian crop?

This question aimed to capture research and extension opportunities and determine gaps in the information that was currently available. There were a number of common themes.

Field management and agronomy was the area most commonly suggested target for research and extension. The following areas were of particular interest

- Irrigation – scheduling, important times to avoid stress
- Impact of nutrition on fibre quality
- More defined impact of different stresses at different times on fibre quality
- Correct timing of defoliation – optimum yield with minimum penalties

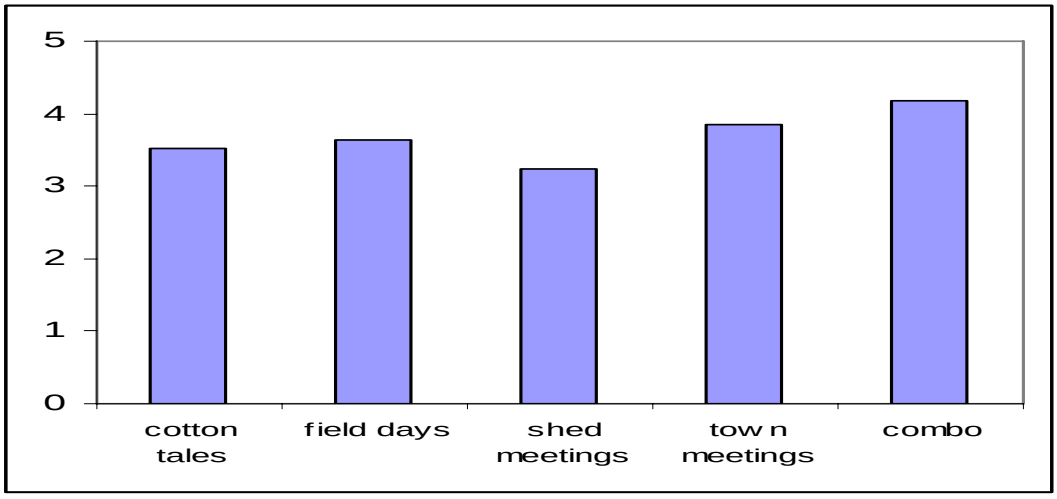
Plant breeding and Variety was also one of the most commonly suggested priority areas for research and extension. Approximately one third of the group suggested that plant breeding can improve the quality of the crop.

Ginning also listed as an area for research and development. Quantitative studies of the impact of different ginning configurations as well as extension of ginning technology and research results were desired.

This survey suggested the importance for all aspects of the production and processing chain to be involved and informed of research and extension projects. Many suggested the importance of knowing the impact that your process has on the quality of the end product. The importance of a consistent message along the processing chain was also noted.

How to you prefer to gather information?

It is vital to deliver timely and relevant information in the format that it is desired. This improves the opportunity for the information to be received and digested and increases the likelihood of practise change. Meeting participants were asked to rank four extension methods as to how they prefer to receive information about fibre quality. A combination of all methods is most desired while "town meetings" such as the format of the fibre to fabric roadshow and field days were the most favoured events.



Appendix 1
Comments from Questions

Q2 What do you understand to be the most important fibre quality parameters to the end users of your cotton?

- Length, strength, colour & micronaire;
- Length, strength, & micronaire;
- Length, contamination, micronaire, stickiness & neps;
- Consistency, contamination, strength & length;
- Micronaire, strength & neps;
- Length, strength & micronaire;
- Length, neps, colour, micronaire & strength;
- Length, strength & micronaire;
- Length, strength micronaire & neps;
- Length, contamination, micronaire, & neps;
- Length, strength & micronaire;
- Length, strength & micronaire;
- [Length, colour, strength] – behind Cal/Ariz & micronaire & neps;
- Length, strength, micronaire, colour & moisture;
- Length, micronaire, strength, length unif., neps, SE short fibre, leaf content, grade (in order of importance);
- Feel/Texture, durability (holds shape), look (colour) therefore clean, no contaminants & length;
- Length & micronaire – then neps, strength & stickiness;
- Fibre length, strength, uniformity, micronaire & neps;
- Spinners concern in strength, but length and maturity of fibre still important in spinning process;
- Micronaire, length & strength;
- Ease of spinning – minimise "ends down", neps, uniformity of bale lots (consistency of bales), long, strong fine and white cotton;
- Contamination, length, micronaire, neps & SFC;
- Length & strength;
- Money & length
- Length & strength;
- Varieties – strength, Ginners – micronaire, Management;
- Length, strength, uniformity, neps – less the better;
- Length, strength & colour;
- Strength & length;
- Low contamination, consistent product;
- No contamination, less neps, length, micronaire & colour;
- Length, micronaire, & strength;

- Length & micronaire;
- Length;
- Length, strength & evenness;
- Uniformity, contamination, quality/grade & micronaire;
- Length, strength, micronaire & contamination;
- Length, micronaire, strength, colour, neps & uniformity;
- Length, strength, micronaire & cleanliness (no contaminants);
- Length, strength & micronaire;
- Length, strength, micronaire, no neps & no contamination;
- Micronaire;
- Varietal selection & hygiene;
- Length, strength & micronaire;
- Strength, length & micronaire;
- Strength, micronaire & length;
- Length, micronaire & strength;
- Stickiness – removing the bad perceptions;
- Length, strength & micronaire;
- Length, strength & contamination;
- Colour, length, micronaire, strength, contamination & uniformity;
- Strength;
- Contamination, micronaire & strength;
- Length, strength & micronaire;
- Length, contamination, fibre & strength;
- Strength & operational efficiencies;
- Contamination & ability to provide product that is consistent with end users specifications;
- Length, strength, micronaire & contamination;
- Length, strength & contamination;
- Contaminants appear to be most important and we will have to be very aware of this problem;
- Length, strength & micronaire;
- Length, strength, micronaire & contamination;
- High strength, low (mature) micronaire & good length;
- Low neps, good strength & low contamination;
- Strength, neps, length, contamination, colour & uniformity in the combination of above factors excluding neps;
- Neps, contamination & strength;
- Strength, length & fineness;
- Micronaire, strength, length, neps & contamination;
- Micronaire, length, strength, quality, contamination & colour;
- Length, strength & fineness;
- Contamination, strength, micronaire & neps;
- Micronaire & strength;
- Length, micronaire, strength & lack of contamination;
- Length, Strength etc;
- Contamination & neps;
- Length, strength & micronaire;
- Contamination (lack of), micronaire & neps (lack of);
- Contamination, neps, micronaire & strength;
- Contamination, SFC, neps, micronaire & sticky cotton;
- Length, strength, micronaire & contamination;
- Length, strength, micronaire & contamination;
- Neps/SFC, micronaire & contamination;
- Length, strength, micronaire & neps;

Q3 How could R, D & E help improve the quality of the Australian crop?

Target drought tolerance to try to reduce the large impact of drought on quality;

- Further educate (or facilitate education/awareness) growers on field management, defoliation.
- Continue to develop management tools for growers;
- Continue development of new varieties;
- Define stress with regards to fibre length;
- Define use of defoliation on neps and forcing open immature bolls. Is it our problem;
- Breeding, Agronomy & ginning (order of importance) – extension of all these;
- Identify importance of climate and management (quantified);
- Improve varieties;
- Understand what agronomic management decisions affect fibre quality;
- More credible values for fibre quality characteristics in respect to varieties ie more commercial data rather than field trial analysis;
- Good quality package combined with yield, so that Australian growers will adopt the variety, giving the Australian crop better quality all round;
- BMP for picking, ginning, transport or extension info covering such management aspects;
- Irrigation scheduling;
- The fit for 3SOB
- Improved varieties
- Identify/demonstrate impact of practices;
- More quantitative tools to everyone in the supply chain ie CSIRO's trial on ML/acre vs. yield & quality;
- Relate to how ginning qualities relate to end garments;
- Plant breeding to continue good job;
- Increase extension on agronomic ???;
- Better understanding of irrigation timing during very hot weather. How often should you water, how to get timing right during extreme temperatures ie short bursts often, does drip or overhead systems have less fibre development problems than flood irrigation;
- Increase number of large scale trials under commercial reality;
- Would like to know more about irrigation timing and quality. In relation to soil water use. Plant pop. Effects are also very interesting. Late season N, P, K requirements?;
- Determine what currently differentiates Australian growth and manipulate where possible to further differentiate on global market;
- Determine how suppliers to the industry can be involved eg crop residue issues;
- Impact of crop nutrition in fibre quality;
- Education of grower and all sections of the industry;
- Research on neps to see how to reduce the problem;
- Plant breeding;
- Understanding what level of plant stress is significant;
- Education;
- Put more money in your pocket;
- By producing the product that the consumer wants;
- Maintain work on varietal length, strength uniformity & neps;
- R & D could put Aussie cotton in front of the rest of the world in premiums;
- Education of all parties;
- Evaluate data presented by gin suppliers;
- Lease with researchers to keep growers and agronomists informed on all updates;
- Measuring fibre performance in mills;
- Help balance yield with quality;
- Making industry aware of issues needing improvement;
- Better varieties;
- The more info growers, crop consultants and ginners have on the impact of each decision & operation – the better the end product. Research, Development & Extension to help provide this;

- Plant breeding;
- Better understanding of growing the crop;
- Better understanding of stress on crop related to quality (length);
- Education, varieties & farming practices;
- Variety, technology & awareness;
- Have a fineness and maturity tester and get rid of micronaire as a measure;
- Build an efficient nep tester;
- Find a way to wrap our bales in a non contaminating wrap product – how about cotton??;
- Breed younger and stronger cotton with better micronaire
- Improve agronomic management;
- What can I do as a grower to keep improving length and reducing length;
- Need to maintain high yield;
- Give direction of things growers can do;
- Do more trials/research in all areas eg Emerald. Not just work in one region;
- Educate growers and consultants as to the effect that their decisions have further down the value chain and the effects this has on Australian basis;
- CSIRO – 40-40-4;
- Extension – promote M Bauer & Co work;
- Ginning – do all the ginners practice;
- Best management to optimise quality;
- Continue valuable work – help pass on message of importance;
- Keep progressing towards niche fibre quality;
- Keep educating growers about what happens to cotton after the farm gate!!;
- Help them to become "price setters" not "price takers" by bad merchants;
- Keep at it, good info;
- Variety eg dry conditions;
- Tell us which type of management is best eg early intense vs. early slack;
- Agronomic/management that can have positive impact on quality;
- Continued R & D into varieties, crop management to maximise quality (not yield), source and cause of contamination;
- Factors we have control over pickers of up – type of cotton;
- Agronomics to improve quality;
- Plant breeding (strength & length);
- Impact of fertilizer other than N & P;
- I think at present most areas of possible research are being undertaken and we need to support these programs. The ability of the crop to handle stress would be a big factor of research that would help (I think?);
- Help to get actual figures on Australian quality parameters eg contamination, also how to provide a consistent fibre quality;
- Work with all industry to achieve a consistent product;
- Any research and information done will help people like yourselves promote and tell people especially the general public about the industry and it developments;
- Geo (GPS) referencing all inputs and outputs and referencing this to quality reports;
- Need to keep us informed;
- Improved varieties – selected for quality and yield;
- Defoliation – maturity etc;
- Selecting for better varietal traits – already being _ out;
- Keep up the information dissemination as it becomes available;
- Present info on fibre length from commercially ginned cotton or account for differences in length from hand ginned samples to allow growers better decision support;
- Help all aspects of industry understand the needs of spinners these meetings very important and especially with the younger audience that was here today;
- New technologies, practices will improve what we are currently doing;
- Variety – quality & disease;
- Crop – stress factors & affect on quality;
- Effective communication of all trial work & results;
- Continuation of current extension work;
- Better varieties, agronomic issues & innovative practices;

- Improved varieties;
- Better knowledge of how agronomic practices affect quality;
- Make it rain in February;
- Education and research on water management and nutrition;
- Improve all of the above (length, strength, micronaire & contamination). Not only the physical characteristics but also grower/consultant and all personnel involved. Awareness of these factors;
- By producing a better breeding program and informing growers;

Appendix 2

2006 Fibre to Fabric Roadshow

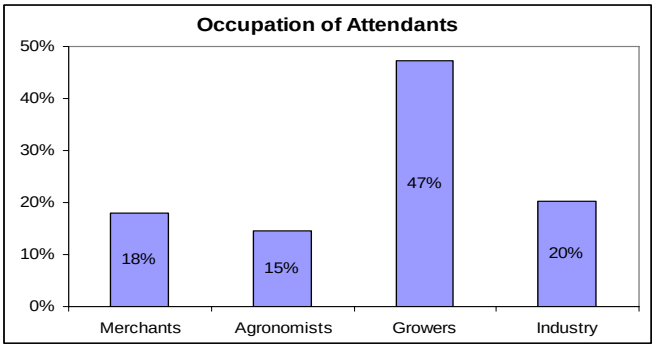
How effectively did this meeting present the current research and development of fibre quality?

Survey conducted & compiled by
Rebecca Smith, Cotton Industry Development Officer DPI& F Goondiwindi.

For the second consecutive year, a week long series of workshops have been conducted with the aim to present current fibre quality research and developments to growers and industry personnel. Held during the first week of February, this meeting was well attended and received in the 9 valley's it was conducted in. Cotton Growing areas included Narrabri, Moree, Walgett, Mungindi, St George, Theodore, Emerald, Goondiwindi, Dalby.

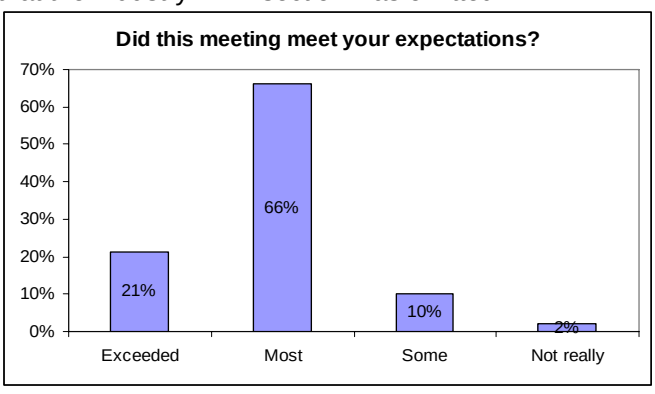
At the conclusion of each meeting, the group was asked to complete a survey to capture their initial reaction to the information given. It was explained that giving their name was optional but provided an opportunity to follow up with those who suggested a practise change would come from the information delivered. As well as giving their name and occupation, the survey asked if the meeting met their expectations and how useful each presentation was. The meeting delegates were also asked to provide research priorities and how they would like to see information about fibre quality research delivered.

124 growers, merchants, agronomists and industry personal attended the fibre to fabric Roadshow, of which 47% were growers. Industry personnel, including sales agronomists, resellers, chemical and seed reps and bankers made up one fifth of the group. The break down of occupations of participants was:



DID THE MEETING MEET YOUR EXPECTATIONS?

The survey asked if the meeting met the expectations of the participants and to give comment. This question aims to capture peoples initial overall reaction to the meeting, including information presented, format and surroundings. The graph suggests that the meeting met most of or exceeded the expectations of 86% of the group. Reoccurring comments (see appendix 1) suggested that the information was very informative. Numerous comments suggested the disappointment that the Industry BMP section was omitted.

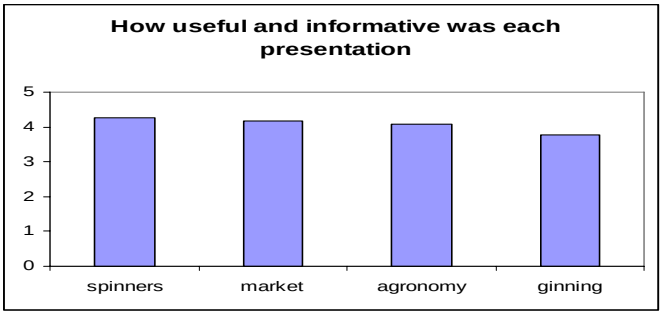


HOW USEFUL WAS EACH PRESENTATION?

The content of the meeting included two sessions, the first about Agronomy and Ginning and the second about Market and Spinning. Three different marketing experts gave the Marketing presentation on different legs of the roadshow.

Speakers included
Rene Van der Sluijs CSIRO TFT – Spinning
Ian Rawlins ACGA – Ginning
Mike Bange CSIRO PI – Agronomy
Pete Johnson – ACSA – Marketing
Tony Gietz – ACSA – Marketing
Kim Morrison – ACSA - Marketing

Course participants were asked to rank the presentations from one to five with five being the best in terms of usefulness



Recommendations

This roadshow provides a very effective platform to deliver Post Farm gate research and development. The Numbers, and importantly percentage of growers, at each meeting suggested that the information was timely and relevant. The format and timing suits the topics and range of presentations proves to please a wide audience.

Evaluation of individual presentations suggested that the topics were useful and informative. Further assessment of the results show that growers and agronomists generally found the agronomy section most beneficial while merchants and bankers generally found the ginning and spinning section most informative. If future workshops are conducted, it would be important to include initial findings and results from projects and trial work that has been referred to in presentations over the past two years.

The format of the meeting allowed time for questions and interaction with the experts over a short break between presentations and over lunch or refreshments at the conclusion of the meeting. This is highly valued and allows those in attendance to ask specific question of the speakers.

This workshop would be greatly enhanced if handouts were available to those who attended. This series of presentations delivers a lot of technical information in a short period of time. Grower and industry appreciate the opportunity to digest the information and review the facts at a later stage.

Q1 Did this meeting meet your expectations. Please Comment

- Good variety and balance of topical issues;
- Good to get info on current state of international market, also some knowledge on the agronomic aspects;
- Came to discuss BMP issues;
- Agronomy section excellent;
- Pity not more attended;
- Didn't have any idea what the day would consist of;
- More detail on more facts;
- Would have liked some more info on ginning – expand/explain moisture in ginning better;
- Needed more on what the industry should be doing to differentiate in world market;
- Very informative;
- Speakers spoke on issue I was not familiar with;
- Why did he not know where futures would be next week?;
- Very informative;
- Very informative;
- Just learning for me Bec – I really enjoyed it – gives me a better whole rounding on industry;
- Very Good;
- Very interesting;
- Think it is valuable to give growers an idea of what happens to the cotton after the gin;
- Great info, important for future direction;
- No info on agronomic means to improve quality eg early bolls, late bolls;
- Grower inputs;
- Terrible joke from Pete;
- Was much the same as last years;
- Excellent mix of speakers, covering all facets of the later stages of the industry;
- Found it very informative;
- Can't wait to see the Australian data to validate spinners perception;
- Exceeded expectations;
- Essentially though it was updated from last year for the 05 year;
- Was hoping to hear BMP;
- Very good info;
- Very informative and easy to understand;
- Handouts summarising or copies of presentations;
- Heard most of it before but realise that it needs to be said;
- Great overview of the current challenges faced by all stakeholders in the Australian Cotton industry;
- Really good content.