



January, August & Final Reports

Part 1 - Summary Details

REPORTS

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

CRDC Project Number: **AAW 1C**

January Report: Due 29-Jan-01

August Report: Due 03-Aug-01

Final Report: Due within 3 months of project completion

Project Title: 1. Enhancement of BMP Manual into an Environmental management System. 2. Development of further BMP Manual modules

Project Commencement Date: 1/7/00 Project Completion Date: 30/6/02

Research Program: Best Management Practice and Environment

Part 2 - Contact Details

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Part 3 – Final Report Format

1. Outline the background to the project.

The initial BMP Manual focussed on pesticide use. This project aimed to explore the requirements for expanding the focus of the BMP manual, and the BMP program, to all relevant natural resource management issues. These requirements included both the development of the practical information required to address the identified natural resource issues, as well as the relationship of the BMP program to other initiatives (both Government and other agricultural industry initiatives)

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

The major objectives, including the extent of their achievement are as follows:

- Submission of current Manual as a Code of Practice under Queensland's Environmental Code of Practice legislation

Document was submitted to CRDC and Cotton Australia for approval to submit. CRDC approved submission, but Cotton Australia has not approved it submission, apparently due to various concerns about the legal ramifications of submitting the Manual for approval. The project has not been privy to this legal advice, and is unaware of the exact nature of the concerns.

- Continue development of land and water management module

Second draft developed (attachment 1). Finalisation still dependent upon eventual regulatory requirements, which are still undecided. Format of module could be greatly affected if land and water management planning becomes a regulatory requirement, as it may be appropriate to style it as a guide to developing a land and water management plan. On-going discussions being held with NSW Agriculture re harmonisation with their WaterWise training program, with QDPI re harmonisation with their training materials, and with QDNR's NHT project team investigating the practical requirements for developing land and water management.

Both members of the project team have attended the 4-day WaterWise training program

- Finalise development of petrochemical storage and handling module

See attachment 2

- Scope the requirements for the following additional modules (including requirements for submission of additional modules as a Code):

- Vegetation/biodiversity
- Waste management
- Noise management
- Air quality

Developed into draft form (previously provided), and will be field tested as part of new project AAW 4C.

Requirements for submission as a Code detailed in Queensland EPA guidelines.

- Achieve cross-recognition of BMP audits for CattleCare certification purposes

Concordance between BMP Manual and CattleCare previously provided to CRDC and AusQual/CattleCare. Further progression of this issue with CRDC

Objectives achieved that were not in original project

- A review of all potential 'environmental' legislation affecting cotton farmers in the 3 major jurisdictions (federal, New South Wales and Queensland) was undertaken, and a complete listing of all potential legal obligations was developed (lengthy, therefore not attached—please advise if required). This was used to determine which aspects of the current version of the BMP Manual could potentially be revised/updated updating, and will be an important resource for the new project AAW 4C. This legislative information will also be useful for the proposed second environmental audit
- Updated pages for the current BMP Manual were developed (see attachment 3)
- Development of discussion paper regarding issues facing industry re natural resource management (see attachment 4)

Other Activities

Numerous documents were commented on (see previous report for January for list, and various Government initiatives perused and discussed with industry members). In particular, the Federal framework for Environmental Management Systems in Agriculture was reviewed extensively, in both its initial and final draft forms.

3. How has your research addressed the Corporations three outputs: Sustainability, profitability and international competitiveness, and/or people and community?

By developing tools to enable cotton farmers to understand and comply with their natural resource management obligations

4. Detail the methodology and justify the methodology used.

N/A

5. Detail results including the statistical analysis of results.

See attachments as listed

6. Discuss the results, and include an analysis of research outcomes compared with objectives.

N/A

7. Provide an assessment of the likely impact of the results and conclusions of the research project for the cotton industry. Where possible include a statement of the costs and potential benefits to the Australian cotton industry and future research needs.

N/A

8. Describe the project technology (eg. commercially significant developments, patents applied for or granted licenses etc).

N/A

9. Provide a technical summary of any other information developed as part of the research project. Include discoveries in methodology, equipment design, etc.

N/A

10. 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.

To be done as part of project AAW 4C, which will be testing the materials developed on a range of cotton farms

11. List the publications arising from the research project.

Major presentations and/or papers include the following:

- Paper and presentations for 2000 and 2002 cotton conferences:
2000 "The new BMP Manual", A Williams
2002 "Balancing profitability and sustainability—the role of BMP",
A Williams
- Paper and presentation for EMS Conference, Ballina, 2001
"Environmental management systems and agriculture—theory, practice and reality—experiences of the cotton industry" A Williams, J Williams, R Holloway and B Pyke
- Paper and presentation for EMS Conference, Launceston, 2001
"The cotton industry's BMP Program and EMS", A Williams
- Paper and poster Aquatic Ecosystems Conference, Townsville (collaboration with Cotton CRC)
"Implementing Research to Protect the Environment—Experiences of the Australian Cotton Industry", A Williams and G Fitt
- Presentation to Condamine Balonne Catchment Committee, 2001, A Williams
- Poster for RiverSymposium, 2002
"The Cotton Industry's Best Management Practices Program For Improving Natural Resource Management —Development Of BMP's For Water Management", A Williams
- IATP (Yale) Conference—Adding Value through Environmental Marketing (EMS in Agriculture), 2000, A Williams and M Logan
- Major Report " Fostering Best Management Practices in Natural Resource Management—towards an environmental management system in the cotton industry"

12. Are changes to the Intellectual Property register required?

NO