



## **FINAL REPORT 2015**

For Public Release

### ***Part 1 - Summary Details***

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

**CRDC Project Number:**

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**Project Title: AACS 2015 Australian Cotton Research Conference**

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**Project Commencement Date:** 1/3/15      **Project Completion Date:** 30/9/15

**CRDC Research Program:** 4 People

### ***Part 2 – Contact Details***

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**Administrator:** Michael Bange  
**Organisation:** Australian Association Cotton Scientists  
**Postal Address:** 21888 Kamilaroi Highway Narrabri New South Wales Australia  
**Ph:** 0267991540      **Fax:**      **E-mail:** Michael.bange@csiro.au

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**Conference Convenor:** Paul Grundy  
**Organisation:** Australian Association Cotton Scientists  
**Postal Address:** C/- QDAF, PO Box 102, Toowoomba 4350  
**Ph:** 07 46881533      **Fax:**      **E-mail:** paul.grundy@daf.qld.gov.au

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**Supervisor:** (Name & position of senior scientist overseeing the project.)  
**Organisation:**  
**Postal Address:**  
**Ph:**      **Fax:**      **E-mail:**

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**Signature of Research Provider Representative:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Submitted:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **Part 3 – Final Report**

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

### **Background**

#### **1. Outline the background to the project.**

The Association of Australian Cotton Scientists was formed in 2012 to act as a representative body to promote and enhance cotton research as a profession; to facilitate communication and collaboration between scientists; and to act as a point of contact between scientists, the Australian cotton industry and the International Cotton Researchers Association. One of the key activities facilitated by the association is to hold a biennial research conference that provides an opportunity for the Australian cotton research and extension community to come together and present research results, network and discuss ideas.

The conference organising committee members are:

- Paul Grundy, QDAFF (Convenor)
- Kristen Knight, Monsanto
- Kristy Biers, QDAFF
- Gupta Vadakattu, CSIRO
- Brajesh Singh, UWS
- Linda Smith, QDAFF
- Ruth Redfern, CRDC
- Warren Conaty, CSIRO
- Alison McCarthy, USQ
- Duncan Weir, QDAFF.

### **Objectives**

#### **2. List the project objectives and the extent to which these have been achieved, with reference to the Milestones and Performance indicators.**

The objective for the 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Cotton Research Conference was to provide a forum for the presentation and exchange of cotton research, extension ideas and information. Unlike the industry conference which caters to the broader industry as a whole and growers more specifically, this event focussed on scientific concepts, methodologies and results with a specific aim of enabling networking between people from a broad range of organisations and disciplines. Held every 2 years, this event is an opportunity for the cotton research and extension community to come together to network and learn from each other as well as be inspired by the breadth and depth of activities conducted throughout the Australian and international cotton industry.

The conference was successfully organised and delivered in Toowoomba from 8-10 September 2015. The event was attended by over 230 participants and presentations were made by 135 people across a broad range of disciplines. The conference hosted guest speaker Timothy Deutsch from the USA who spoke about the R&D process used to bring about the 7760 cotton picker as a keynote address. Other plenary speakers included Dr Gary Fitt (CSIRO), Dr Iain Wilson (CSIRO), Professor Brajesh Singh (UWS), Paul Barnett (Impact Freelancer), Dr Nancy Schellhorn (CSIRO) & Dr Stephen Yeates (CSIRO). Session topics, speakers and abstracts can be found in Appendix 1 – Conference Proceedings, the register of delegates can be found in Appendix 2.

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

#### Key Conference Activities, Statistics & Achievements

- Sought access to USQ Toowoomba campus with the Vice Chancellors office regarding venue opportunities. This request was accepted and the conference officially hosted by the Institute for Agriculture and the Environment as an in-kind contribution for the event.
- Updated Conference Website as a source for pre & post conference information.
- Engaged Conference Online, who provided a low cost secure electronic platform for registration bookings and payments. They also generated a database with all registrant details, and provided a name badge printing service and basic conference administration. Conference Online were a very effective conference partner and provided cost effective services on a per registrant basis.
- Secured conference sponsorship from several key industry organisations:  
Foundation Sponsor the Cotton Research and Development Corporation \$25,000  
Major Sponsors CSIRO - \$5,000, CSD - \$5,000, University Western Sydney - \$1,800 and Monsanto - \$1500.
- Sponsored Mr Tim Deutsch to travel from the USA and present the Conference opening plenary talk – Research & Development of the 7760 Cotton Picker
- Developed a session program that enabled all delegates who submitted abstracts to present. In total 137 different people presented talks at the conference.
- Provided all delegates with a high quality conference proceedings document (68pp). See Appendix 1 - Conference Proceedings.
- Held the Annual General Meeting for the ACS 10 Sept 2015 and elected office bearers.
- Conducted a plenary session that was open to all students on the USQ campus to attend to learn more about cotton science in practice and as a career. This session was chaired by Dr Stephen Neate (USQ) with speakers Dr Steven Yeates and Dr Nancy Schellhorn (CSIRO).
- Conference Dinner and awards night held at Picnic Point function centre Toowoomba. Bus transportation to and from the event was provided for safe delegate dinner attendance.
- Sponsorship for 3 students to travel and attend the conference and present their research. The students were Linh Nguyen, University of Western Sydney, Demi Gamble, University of Melbourne and Juan Xie, based with CSIRO from Donghua University, Shanghai, China.
- Hosted “Devils Advocate” open discussion sessions whereby the day’s presentations were subject to analysis and discussion by all delegates.
- Provided an excellent networking opportunity for over 230 people who registered as full or day registrants (see Appendix 2 - Registrant Listing).
- Reporting of research results to an audience of peers, investors and extension staff.

## *Conclusion*

### **4. 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?**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> Australian Research Conference successfully brought together over 230 people from the cotton research community which enabled

- The exchange of information and ideas both at a national and international level
- Development of new ideas and potential for new collaborative arrangements between individuals and/or groups
- Reporting of recent research or extension findings and discoveries to a peer network and the opportunity for audience questions
- The celebration and acknowledgement of research and extension success
- The opportunity to develop new ideas or improve on existing ones.
- An effective networking opportunity for the industry's research and extension people

### **5. 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)**

A full listing of session topics, speakers and abstracts can be found in at the Association of Australian Cotton Scientists website

[http://www.cottonresearch.org/Program/Conference\\_Booklet](http://www.cottonresearch.org/Program/Conference_Booklet)

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

The conference has provided a website with registration links, abstract submittance forms, general information, and an electronic version of the conference proceedings.

<http://www.cottonresearch.org/>

## ***Part 4 – Final Report Executive Summary***

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Provide a one page Summary of your research that is not commercial in confidence, and that can be published on the World Wide Web. Explain the main outcomes of the research and provide contact details for more information. It is important that the Executive Summary highlights concisely the key outputs from the project and, when they are adopted, what this will mean to the cotton industry.

The Association of Australian Cotton Scientists aims to facilitate a biennial cotton research conference that provides an opportunity for the Australia's cotton research and extension community to come together and present research results, network and discuss ideas.

The second Australian Cotton Research Conference was held in at the University of Southern Queensland's Toowoomba campus. This three day event was themed "Science Securing Cotton's Future" and was attended by over 230 delegates from across Australia as well as attendees from the USA and India. The event focused on the presentation and discussion of scientific concepts, methodologies and results with a specific aim of enabling networking between researchers from a broad range of organisations and disciplines. The event also served to recognise achievement by teams and individuals in science and extension within the Australian cotton industry.

The conference was delivered in Toowoomba from 8-10 September 2015. Presentations were made by 137 people across a broad range of disciplines. The conference hosted guest speaker Timothy Deutsch (formerly of John Deere) from the USA who spoke about the R&D process used to bring about the 7760 cotton picker from design to reality as a keynote address. Other plenary speakers included Dr Gary Fitt (CSIRO), Dr Iain Wilson (CSIRO), Professor Brajesh Singh (UWS), Paul Barnett (Impact Freelancer), Dr Nancy Schellhorn (CSIRO) & Dr Stephen Yeates (CSIRO).

A full listing of session topics, speakers and abstracts can be found in at the Association of Australian Cotton Scientists website [http://www.cottonresearch.org/Program/Conference\\_Booklet](http://www.cottonresearch.org/Program/Conference_Booklet)

CRDC was the foundation sponsor for this event.