

Part 1 - Summary Project Details

Final Report

Report Due Date:	29-Sept-00	CRDC Project Number	CSP91C
Project Title: (<small>< 15 words</small>)	Maintenance of Cotton Industry Weather Station Network		

Part 2 - Project Contact Details

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	<small>(Name of organisation that will be administering the funding)</small>		
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Plain English Summary

Project Title: Maintenance of Cotton Industry Weather Station Network

Principal Researchers: Dr M.P. Bange, Ms. D. Johnson, Mr G. Rapp

Project Aim: To provide ongoing technical support and maintenance for weather station network and data generated by them ensuring provision of high quality weather data to research and all other facets of the cotton industry.

Summary:

The availability of accurate and continuous weather and climate data is essential for strategic research, operation of decision support systems (eg. CottonLOGIC, OZCOT crop simulation model) and numerous operational aspects of cotton agronomy and management. In addition historical climate data is being used by researchers to assess the potential of cotton growth in new regions and to analyse the performance of crops in current seasons in the context of the whole climatic record. Increasingly consultants and growers are using this information for making informed management decisions.

This project supported the maintenance of 14 stations spread throughout the cotton growing regions. These stations required regular maintenance and annual calibration. The information collected from these stations was made available via the Cotton CRC's web site. After numerous problems installing the network they were operating at an acceptable level. However, the stations are now over 6 years and components are failing more frequently and the stations show visible signs of degradation from the weather.

It is proposed to improve access to weather and climate through a new CRDC project 'Enhancing Access to climate and weather data' and will encompass three main components, which are:

- 1. Providing weather information through the existing cotton industry weather station network.*
- 2. Provision of patched point data sets to the Australian Cotton Research Institute for research purposes.*
- 3. Collaborating with partners of the SILO project to develop weather and climate tools specific to the cotton industry.*