



January, August & Final Reports

REPORTS

Part 1 - Summary Details

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

CRDC Project Number: DAN148C

January Report: Due 29-Jan-01
August Report: Due 03-Aug-01
Final Report: Due within 3 months of project completion

Project Title: Cotton Disease Washdown Facility

Project Commencement Date: 1/7/2000 **Project Completion Date:** 30/6/2001

Research Program: Diseases Weeds

Part 2 - Contact Details

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Researcher 2 (Name & position of additional researcher or supervisor).

Organisation:

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Signature of Research Provider Representative: _____

Part 3 – Final Report Format

1. Outline the background to the project.

Ongoing research at ACRI into cotton diseases confirmed the need for best practice to be exercised to avoid disease transfer from one location to another. The need for this was confirmed by pathology staff at ACRI who tested vehicles visiting ACRI and found Black root Rot, Verticillium and Fusarium pathogens present. This clearly presented a risk to the research trials at ACRI especially if Fusarium Wilt was to be imported onto the farm. It was also recognised that ACRI is a hub of the Cotton Industry with many grower visitors and that many off station sites are visited by ACRI staff. The pathology staff advised that in order to prevent disease transfer it would be necessary to improve the washdown facilities at ACRI and adopt a come clean go clean policy. Action was then taken to set about the construction of a new washdown facility. A funding application was submitted to CRDC and subsequently approved.

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

The objective of the project was to develop a new washdown facility that would have a dual function. Part of the function was to act as a demonstration to industry personnel of best management practices in disease hygiene but the principle part was to enable pathology staff to evaluate the effectiveness of the **facility for disease control and also evaluate the viability of anti – fungal chemicals as they come on the market and to advise industry of the outcomes.** Both these objectives have been achieved and will continue to be refined.

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

The project has achieved its goals and will significantly contribute to sustainability of production systems for the Cotton Industry.

Part 4 – Final Report Plain English Summary

Cotton Disease Washdown Facility

Control of cotton diseases is a major research effort at ACRI. Transport and transfer of cotton diseases by vehicles or machinery is a threat to cotton production in most cotton producing valleys. It is also a threat to research trials at ACRI. It was recognised that an improvement in the method by which vehicles could be satisfactorily cleaned was needed at ACRI. As ACRI is a significant hub of the Cotton Industry with many off-station trials being conducted it is essential that all vehicles and machinery are free of disease pathogens.

Pathology research staff determined that it was necessary to construct a new washdown facility which would aim to achieve best management practice in disease control transfer and also have the role of including the evaluation of anti – fungal chemicals used to control pathogens. The facility would also double as a best management practice demonstration facility to industry.

A funding application was made to the CRDC for part funding of the washdown facility and this was subsequently approved. Construction was completed and all staff required to comply with a come clean go clean policy to protect ACRI trials and off station trial sites. Many growers have come to examine the facility which is a drive on – drive off concrete hard stand area. Cleaning is achieved with high pressure spray equipment that incorporates anti –fungal chemicals. All water and washed down material is collected in a sealed sump then pumped to an evaporation basin where it is treated by a bleach dosing device. The entire washdown process is a closed water system with nil return to the adjacent farm areas.

The project has achieved its objectives and the facility continues to be an evaluation tool for pathology staff to evaluate new anti-fungal chemicals as they are offered to industry.