

Part 3 - Final Report Format

1. Outline the background to the project.

Dr McGarry was invited by FAO (The Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations) to attend and present a paper at the joint FAO/Netherlands Govt. inaugural conference on the "Multifunctional Character of Land", in the Netherlands. The paper was entitled "Land management for cotton – a multiple output system delivering positive spillover benefits" (The full report, including paper, is attached). The FAO invitation came through the Office of the Federal Minister for Agriculture Fisheries and Food, Canberra as Dr McGarry was part (1 of 2) of the official Australian delegation. His paper presented the case that the officer has developed in 11 years employment with DPI and DNR of the Australian Cotton Industry as a strong advocate and practitioner of sustainable land management. The officer's early work rationalised soil structure degradation under cotton. That work helped lead to radical changes to the ethic of land management in cotton, particularly the concept of "retained cotton hills"(now used in 80% of the Industry). In these, soil compaction is limited to permanent wheel tracks, keeping the plant lines in optimum soil condition for plant growth. The system and the socio-economic consequences were presented to the International land management community as an Australian Cotton success story – demonstrating Cotton's strong commitment to environmental care, fully capable of translation overseas.

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

To present the Australian Cotton Industry as a strong advocate of sustainable and practicable land management. To demonstrate the strong skills of CRDC-funded researchers and ODNR staff, fully able to initiate and finalise, then present "success stories" in cotton land management at an International forum.

3. Detail the methodology and a justification for the methodology used.

Presentation of an invited, keynote paper at an International forum.

4. Detail results including the statistical analysis of results

The paper was most well received, being the principal keynote address of the conference; paper #1 on Day #1.

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

Results are the attached report, including Dr McGarry's paper.

6. 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.

The paper given at the conference rationalised that the Australian cotton industry is a vital part of the economic prosperity of several inland cropping areas and the farming communities thereof, annually earning millions of dollars in exports. The Industry is also vital to maintaining the vitality of several large inland-Australian towns who without the "cotton-dollars" and the large infrastructure of job-creating industries that surrounds the Industry, would rapidly deteriorate.

7. Describe the project technology (e.g. commercially significant developments, patents applied for or granted, licenses, etc).

A paper presented at an International conference.

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

N/A

9. State the recommendations on the activities or other steps that may be taken to further develop, disseminate, or to exploit the project technology.

Dr McGarry is attempting to present this paper at the International Cotton Conference, Cairns, November, 2000; again to present Australian Cotton as a multifunctional enterprise.

10. List the publications arising from the research project.

Attached is the QDNR report published by Dr McGarry.