



**Report**  
**Travel Bursary**  
**Project 08-09CRDC00150**

**PART A: PERSONAL DETAILS**

**Name:**

Greg Hutchinson

**Phone:**

61 7 4997 4001

**Email:**

hfcfarms@yahoo.com.au

**PART B: YOUR TRAVEL**

**1. Provide a short overview of what your bursary achieved. (Include name / aims of travel / course. Location of travel etc)**

Bursary helped me to attend the 2008 International Cotton Institute Course in Memphis, TN, USA.

Features of course:

- Network with participants from around the world as well as cotton industry leaders.
- Provide background in all facets of the industry from growing, ginning, marketing, shipping, milling and spinning including visits to USDA gin research labs and Cotton Incorporated's milling and spinning research facilities.
- Learning how to manually class cotton.
- Hear from industry leaders such as
  - Joe Nicosia – CEO, Allenberg Cotton
  - Drayton Mayers – CEO, Cotton Board
  - Peter Elgi – Plexus Ltd
  - Allen Terhaar – Cotton Council International
  - Terry Towensend – ICAC
  - Wally Darneille - Plains Cotton Co-op
  - Robert Weil II – Weil Bros

Each of the speakers talked about their organization but also on their personal journey to how they have evolved into cotton industry leaders.

- Attend USDA Standards Conference and view matching of cotton samples

Summary of course costs:

Airfares	\$3000
Accommodation / meals	\$4000
Course Cost	\$10000
	\$17000

**PART C: KEY LEARNINGS**

**2a. What are two or three key things that you learned through your travel bursary?**

As cotton producers we are not competing against other countries such as the US, India & China in the production of cotton but we are competing against polyester as a substitute for cotton. Therefore we should all be working together to promote cotton as the fibre of choice for mills to use.

The cotton industry is a small one and it is essential to get to know others in the industry from around the world because you never know when these contacts could help you in the future.

**2b. Is there anything you would improve to gain more from this course / activity / bursary?**

- The course structure is one of the best in the world with experts in their fields coming in everyday to present lectures. They could improve the course by having harder examinations and making the USDA classing exam part of the manual classing.
- The only other way to improve it would be to encourage more Australians to attend.

**PART D: BENEFITS**

**3. What benefits have you achieved from your travel bursary?**

<b>For you</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Made some great contacts around the world</li> <li>- Learnt how to manually class cotton</li> <li>- Gained a huge amount of experience in networking</li> </ul>
<b>For your project, enterprise or job</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Improved marketing skills</li> <li>- Learnt skills and made contacts that will allow me to export cotton directly to Indonesia and China</li> <li>- Gained confidence to invest in the agriculture sector as huge opportunities are going to present themselves in coming years.</li> </ul>

<b>For the cotton industry</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Let the rest of the world know that we are still producing high quality cotton and hopefully production will soon be back to normal levels.</li> <li>- Want to try and introduce module averaging in classing cotton as they appear to be doing this in the US with success.</li> <li>- Encourage the Australian cotton industry to sign up as a signatory to the USDA Cotton Standards (since we are using their standards to class cotton if we are a signatory then hopefully we will have some say over future changes to the standards.</li> <li>- Look at ways in which we can copy the way the US cotton industry gets funds for research &amp; development – ie making grower levies compulsory but also look at trying to levy cotton imports as well.</li> </ul>

**PART E: RECOMMENDATION**

**4. Would you recommend this travel / course to others? Why / Why not?**

Yes, absolutely. The Australian industry should be sponsoring someone to attend the course each year as the opportunities and experience that it provides you with are well worth the investment. The skills that the course has provided me with will enable me to take on a more active leadership role in the industry in the future. More importantly it gives you the opportunity to be an ambassador for Australian cotton on the world stage.