



Australian Government

Cotton Research and  
Development Corporation

# CGA FINAL REPORT

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

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

**CRDC Project Number: CGA1803**

**CGA: Central Highlands CG&IA**

**Project Title:** *“Central Highlands CGIA: Implementing Innovative Irrigation - CQ Style”*

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**Project Commencement Date:** 3/10/17

**Project Completion Date:** 10/11/2017

## ***Part 2 – Contact Details***

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**Administrator:** Aaron Kiely (Chair CHCG&IA)

**Organisation:** Central Highland Cotton Growers & Irrigators association

**Postal Address:** PO Box 33 Emerald 4720

**Ph:**

**Fax:**

**E-mail:** ackiely@bigpond.com

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## ***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.**

This project supported growers to see a different irrigation solutions being implemented on farm. Growers reluctance to adopt new technologies could be overcome by visiting early adopters and listening to their first hand practical experience. Often irrigation systems are showcased in other regions, limiting CQ exposure to opportunities.

### ***Objectives***

#### **2. List the project objectives (from the application) and the extent to which these have been achieved.**

Broaden grower perspectives on irrigation tools

Networking, peer support and mentoring for growers who have implemented new technologies

Exposure to accredited myBMP farms

### *Methods*

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

The Central Queensland Irrigation Big Day Out was held on Thursday 9 November 2017 giving attendees (total of 72 people) the opportunity to visit three different properties in the Central Highlands region, getting an insight at the opportunities available due to irrigation schemes and the way growers are striving for continued water efficiencies. Throughout the day, two different irrigation systems were viewed (bankless and pipes through banks) with growers talking about the development and day to day management of these systems on farm, discussion on nitrogen and irrigation efficiency, CSD variety trials, Cotton BMP and Better Cotton Initiative as well as a an opportunity to view a macadamia farm, Hinkler Park Plantation. This extension event was time to complement the Emerald AgTeCH conference.

### *Outcomes*

**4. Describe how the project's outputs will contribute to the planned outcomes identified in the project application. Describe the planned outcomes achieved to date.**

Participants were able to get an insight into irrigation technology advancements, and discuss Nitrogen and irrigation use efficiency, myBMP & BCI.

**5. Please report on any:-**

- a) Feedback forms used and what the results were
- b) The highlights for participants or key learnings achieved
- c) The number of people participating and any comments on level of participation

See attached report

### *Conclusion*

**6. 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?**

This highly successful event showcased industry best practice particularly for irrigation and provided a good opportunity for growers to network.

### *Extension Opportunities*

7. Detail a plan for the activities or other steps that may be taken:
- (a) To tell other CGAs/growers/regions about your project.
  - (b) To keep in touch with participants.
  - (c) For future projects.

Event was an extension activity conducted with Dawson Valley CGA through Simon Green.

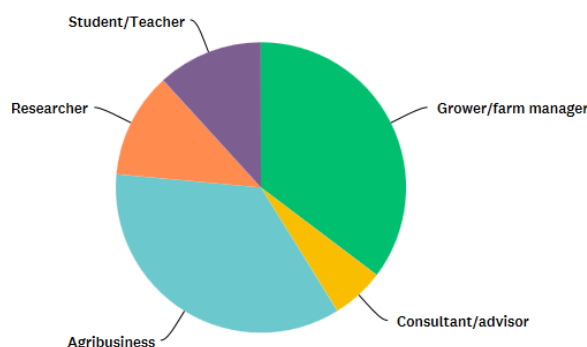
# RD&E Activities Contribution to Business Improvements

## Central Queensland Irrigation Big Day Out, Emerald

The Central Queensland Irrigation Big Day Out was held on Thursday 9 November 2017 giving attendees (total of 72 people) the opportunity to visit three different properties in the Central Highlands region, getting an insight at the opportunities available due to irrigation schemes and the way growers are striving for continued water efficiencies. Throughout the day, two different irrigation systems were viewed (bankless and pipes through banks) with growers talking about the development and day to day management of these systems on farm, discussion on nitrogen and irrigation efficiency, CSD variety trials, Cotton BMP and Better Cotton Initiative as well as a an opportunity to view a macadamia farm, Hinkler Park Plantation.

A survey monkey was sent out to 56 attendees the following week for their feedback and evaluation of the event, with approximately 17 people completing the survey.

### 1. Who completed the survey?



Answer choices	Responses
Grower/farm manager	35.29% (6)
Farm staff	0% (0)
Consultant/advisor	5.88% (1)
Agribusiness	35.29% (6)
Student/teacher	11.76% (2)
Researcher	11.76% (2)
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### 2. The event met the aims and expectations of those who attended.

94% of survey respondents strongly agreed that the event met their aims and expectations.

Overall, the event received a weighted average of 4.94/5 for meeting aims and expectations of attendees.

#### Comments:

- *Very valuable format to have growers talking about their experiences*
- *Good round trip, well organised and managed, good food*
- *Very well organised day with obviously a lot of planning*
- *Was a great informative day!*
- *Great event, please do it again!*

### 3. The topics covered were useful for those attending.

76.47% of the survey respondents strongly agreed that the topics covered throughout the day were useful.

Overall, the event received a weighted average of 4.76/5 for topics covered during the event.

#### Comments:

- *Very interesting and very relevant to the current season*
- *Great to see other ways to irrigation and another crop*
- *Need to focus more on what is happening at a farm level and not include – BMP, LMA, nitrogen discussions.*

### 4. The event and information received was of a high standard.

88.24% of survey respondents strongly agreed that the event and information received was of a high standard.

Overall, the event received a weighted average of 4.88/5 for quality of event and information.

#### Comments:

- *Valuable experiences shared – very worthwhile*
- *The event was well organised and ran very smoothly*
- *Yes very well organised*

## 5. The amount and pace of delivery of information was about right.

54.94% of survey respondents strongly agreed while 23.53% of respondents agreed that the amount and pace of delivery of information was about right.

Overall the event received a weighted average of 4.29/5 for amount and pace of delivery of information.

### Comments:

- *The timing of visits allowed everyone to share experiences personally and interact with people*
- *Great info but perhaps a bit too heavy and drawn out towards the end of the day*

## 6. The event provided good opportunities to network with others.

82.35% of survey respondents strongly agreed that the event provided good opportunities to network with others.

Overall, the event received a weighted average of 4.82/5 for networking opportunities.

### Comments:

- *Having a range of visits and social interaction opportunity certainly assists with the interactions*
- *Large quantity of industry experts and well attended by growers from a number of regions*
- *Yes, great to see growers from other regions attend*

## 7. Do you think you will make any changes or further improvements to your farming business based off information received at the event.

Of the 6 growers and farm managers that completed the survey; 2 growers skipped this question with no indication on whether they would make any changes or further improvements to their farming business based off information received at the event. While the other 4 growers (66.6%) indicated that they would be making changes and further improvements to their farming businesses.

### What would they be changing or doing to further improve:

- *Possibly look at new irrigation layouts whilst we are developing.*
- *Will consider how we could potentially implement some bankless and pipes through banks in our business*
- *Look at options for lower labour input for irrigation*
- *BMP (Sharna Holman comment: possibly a suggestion of becoming accredited from a BMP/Better Cotton Initiative perspective)*

While an Emerald Agricultural College/CQU teacher indicated that they will make changes to their business – with there being more educational opportunities for students to see what is in the region.

## 8. What aspect of the day did you enjoyed the most?

### Comments:

- *Visits to actual irrigations systems in the field*
- *The diversity of information. The visit to the macadamia farm was very interesting*
- *Pipes through banks system*
- *Networking and being able to see innovative irrigation techniques being used.*
- *All if it – brilliant day and fantastic being linked to AgTeCH*
- *Looking at other people's farms and seeing the high standard of practices*
- *On ground aspect looking at how different farms did things differently*
- *Learning about new types of irrigation methods.*
- *The opportunity to learn about how the irrigation systems practically provided solutions to the growers' needs. The Macadamia farm was also excellent to see.*

## 9. Do you have an ideas or suggestions for future events? Different topics or another tour?

### Comments:

- *Nutrition, irrigation timing, precision agriculture, different crop options*
- *Field management after picking and preparation for the next crop*
- *A precision ag day looking at how other growers are using new technology like variable rate fertiliser application*
- *Trial work could be done on variable rate technology for planting, spraying and fertiliser application. Many growers would make high capital purchase decisions based off this independent information.*
- *Another tour – citrus and grapes would be fantastic.*