



SMALL GRANT REPORT

Summary Details

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

CRDC Project Number: CHCGIA 11495

CGA: Central Highlands Cotton Growers & Irrigators Association

Project Title: Grassroots Grant: Grower group tour of NT

Project Commencement Date: 1 November 2024
Project Completion Date: 30 June 2025

Project Summary

Northern growers and agronomists visited Emerald in May 2024 to observe & learn how the CQ Farming system (particularly Long Season Cotton ie 2 flowering periods) has adapted and changed to climatic conditions. This was an extremely successful exchange of learnings, lessons, discussions and ideas between growers & agros. In return, 6 x growers, 1 x Agronomist and 2 x Industry Reps all from the CH Region travelled to the NT & WA in April 2025 to build on discussions from the May 2024 visit and learn of the North's adaptations to their farming system, particularly in areas of crop destruction, crop management in the long season cotton farming system, biosecurity, RMP, cover cropping and irrigation systems. It was a very successful tour as you will see below.

Outcomes & Impact for Industry

See attached for tour schedule variation and see below for specifics on outcomes.

M&E Outcomes: Number of outcomes achieved.

10

People Connections

- * 13 x Farms visited (see attached for list of Farms)
- * 6 x Farm Trials visited (incl cover cropping, nutrition and variety trials (see attached for specifics)
- * Recognise the importance of grower connections with each other and with industry bodies. Exceptional peer-to-peer engagement.
- * Shared learnings, similar challenges recognised from one 'older' growing region (CH) with the newer growing region (NT/WA).
- * Encouragement from the CH Growers to the North Growers to keep trialling, finding ways, utilise the CGA/Cotton Aus/CRDC & CottonInfo resources to build capacity of knowledge to keep improving the region to see results.
- * CHCG&IA reconnection of own growers within CGA – younger generation connected well with more senior growers (age bracket of 23rs - 54yrs). Tour provided a great opportunity for exploration of ideas and observations.

M&E People: Number of connections achieved.

100

Learnings

- * The affect of humid growing conditions - strong presence of boll Rot
- * Potential importance of cover cropping options in the farming systems for disease management, soil health etc
- * Potential importance of trials other than 'seed variety trials' such as 1. planting window trials (for the north) 2. Row configuration trials, 3. growth regulant application timing/trials, 4. Plants per metre trials and 5. nutrition trials (upfront/incrop etc)
- * Variation in irrigation systems - flood, pivot and bankless and the strong opinions either way. Not one size fits all.
- * CHCG&IA tour attendees have stayed connected post tour. A NT Tour check-in is being arranged once picking and winter planting is complete and we are arranging a 'Teams' catch up with Simone (Cotton Aus NT/WA) along with NT/WA growers to see their progress towards the end of their season.
- * Growers and Industry highlighting the learnings from this tour/industry cross-interaction at events such as the 'Farm to Feed Forum' in Katherine on 19/6/25, various Northern Australia CGA gatherings and events etc.

M&E Learnings: Number of learnings and planned actions for the project.

20

Do you have recommendations for CRDC (eg RD&E gaps?)

Please see above in learnings - particularly re humid conditions - boll rot, row configuration, plants per metre, growth regulant etc for long season cotton farming system