



Australian Government
**Cotton Research and
Development Corporation**

TRAVEL & CONFERENCE REPORT

Part 1 - Summary Details

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

CRDC Project Number: **CRDC1002**

Project Title: Field to Fabric Course

Project Commencement Date: 20/07/09 **Project Completion Date:** 24/07/09

Research Program: 1 People and Knowledge

Part 2 – Contact Details

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

Organisation:

Postal Address:

Ph: **Fax:** **E-mail:**

Signature of Research Provider Representative: _____

Part 3 – Travel Report

(Maximum two pages)

1. A brief description of the purpose of the travel.

The purpose of the travel was to attend the 9th Cotton Field to Fabric training course on the 21st, 22nd & 23rd of July held in Geelong in Victoria at the CSIRO Materials Science & Engineering centre.

2. What were the:

a) major findings and outcomes

The course was a fantastic experience linking the growing industry with the spinners and the young textile people who are designing and involved in the end product. It was very focused on the quality effects from; the growing phase (e.g. selection of varieties, water management, stress management, defoliation & picking), ginning phase (over ginning, cleaning when not necessary, addition of neps), spinning phase (cleaning and handling of the fibre, consistency and evenness, length & strength, addition of neps), fabric or product phase (dyeing, flaws in fabric or product), garment phase (no flaws in end product, quality of product).

b) other highlights

Being able to look closely at a working spinning mill and examine all the different systems in a mill to produce very different products (e.g. rotor, air jet, ring & non-woven). We then followed the process through to the different products produced by knitting and weaving systems. Also a trip to the wool museum to get a historical perspective on the textile industry in Australia.

3. Detail the persons and institutions visited, giving full title, position details, location, duration of visit and purpose of visit to these people/places. (NB:- Please provide full names of institutions, not just acronyms.)

Dr Geoff Naylor, Dr Stuart Gordon, Rene van der Sluijs, Dr David King, Dale Carrol, all from CSIRO Materials Science & Engineering centre.

Phil Ryan from Australian Cotton Shippers Association.

Geoff Dunlop, Martin Prins, Dr Ian Russell, all who are consultants.

Greg Parle from the Cotton Classers Association Australia.

Dr Mike Bange from Australian Cotton Cooperative Research Centre

4. a) Are there any potential areas worth following up as a result of the travel?

Colour does not seem to be a major problem with the mills yet it is a major quality parameter attached to the product leaving the farm.

Ian Russell put forward some provocative information on Eco labelling and manufacturers/retailers demanding cotton on these levels. It created quite a debate about BMP cotton and being able to access these markets. The information put forward and rhetoric by companies like Marks & Spenser did not seem to line up with the issues of traceability the industry has found in the spinning chain through to the finished product.

b) Any relevance or possible impact on the Australian Cotton Industry?

The debate needs to continue on eco labelling. Dr Ian Russell needs to be bought up to speed with the traceability project. The colour and micronaire parameters in classing fibres relevance to mills demands in fibre needs to be pursued and developing Australian type and brand.

5. How do you intend to share the knowledge you have gained with other people in the cotton industry?

I have been continually talking about the experience to everyone I have come across. That was how I was referred by a number of people to do the course. I will continue to refer this course to all involved in the industry. I am still quite amazed at other fibres that can look and feel like cotton like acrylic, modal, polyester, bamboo, soy, tencel, etc. We have a huge amount of competitors as well as cotton producing countries. We need to keep working on our quality from the field, and also find ways to describe our cotton better so it is still marketable when environmental conditions may change. Thank you to CRDC for the sponsorship, it was very much appreciated.

Course Cost

\$600 for course,

\$125/Day accommodation + \$25/day breakfast.

Narrabri to Sydney return airfare \$504

Sydney to Avalon return \$158.95

Accommodation in Sydney (flights would not have connected) \$150.50

Total \$1863.45