



**Australian Government**  
**Cotton Research and  
Development Corporation**

# SCHOLARSHIP / SPONSORSHIP 2015

## *Part 1 - Summary Details*

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Please use your TAB key to complete Parts 1 & 2

**CRDC Project Number:** CRDC1218

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**Project Title:** Scholarship: Une Cotton Production Course

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**Commencement Date:** 1/01/2012      **Completion Date:** 31/12/2013

**CRDC Research Program:** 4 People

## *Part 2 – Contact Details*

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**Applicant:** Christopher Thomas

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**Signature of Applicant:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Date Submitted:** \_\_\_\_\_

## ***Part 3 – Scholarship or Sponsorship Report***

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*(Maximum two pages)*

### **1. How has the course assisted you in your day to day working life?**

I was able to use and implement knowledge gained from the Cotton Production Course to make more informed decisions and improve the profitability of our cotton farm. Using the information learnt throughout the course, I was able to improve some of our management practices which resulted in better water use efficiency (WUE), increased yield, cost reductions and a better general understanding of the cotton plant. The course gave me the knowledge which allowed a greater understanding when making decisions and discussions with our agronomist.

### **2. How has the course assisted you in your career path?**

While I was working as an assistant manager on our irrigated cotton farm, the course really helped to give me more knowledge and a much better understanding of cotton. This gave me the tools to make much more informed decisions and implement strategies that improved our yield, improved the sustainability of our land, reduced our operational costs and allow me to communicate with other professionals in our industry with greater understanding.

### **3. What was the most valuable thing you got out of the course?**

I had a good knowledge of how to grow cotton, but the Cotton Production Course gave me a much better understanding of why we do certain things in producing a cotton crop. The course armed me with specific knowledge which I could use to make more informed and technical management decisions to produce to best cotton crop we could. For example, as a direct results of knowledge gained from the course, we changed our irrigation strategy that resulted in better WUE and an increased yield. The other thing I found really valuable was the sharing of knowledge with the other attendees of the course. Through them we could share different farming practices and approaches along with problems they experience in different regions. This sharing of knowledge and experiences was a great way to learn different strategies to grow cotton and overcome issues faced.

### **4. How will completing the course benefit the industry?**

Along with making me a better and more sustainable farmer, the information and knowledge gained from attending this course benefits the industry as a whole. Whether this be an improved understanding of the need to protect the Australian cotton industry from external pests, the importance of using farming practices to reduce the rate of resistance or simply the producing top quality cotton that keeps Australia competitive in the industry, the course is providing this knowledge to people in the industry. This course also provides a sound background to trail new farming practices that may lead to benefits for the whole industry.

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

Along with discussions with other farmers and professionals in the industry on a daily basis, I would share information learnt at local CGA meetings, various supplier information sessions and field days. I would share various management strategies and trials implemented as a result of knowledge gained with our agronomist who in turn could then share this with his other clients.

### **6. Do you have any recommendations on how to improve the course?**

I found the residential school days and the speakers very informative. I would have liked a much more hands on and practical look at some of the things we were studying. For example, we learnt about various insects and weeds but never went out into a crop to practice identifying them. Or when learning about the growth stages of the cotton plant, apart from some pictures or black and white diagrams, we didn't actually count nodes on a plant etc. I think practicing things like this in the field would have significantly helped me with the transition from theory to practice.

**7. Please attach any supporting documentation or course completion transcript**

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**Please email your report 30 days after course to: [research@crdc.com.au](mailto:research@crdc.com.au)**