



TRAVEL & CONFERENCE REPORT

Part 1 - Summary Details

CRDC Project Number: CRDC1305

Project Title: Field to Fabric Course Sponsorship

Project Commencement Date: 04/09/2012 Project Completion Date: 06/09/2012

Part2 – Travel Report

(Maximum two pages)

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

To participate in the Cotton Field to Fabric training course offered by CSIRO Materials, Science & Engineering in Geelong.

2. What were the:

a) major findings and outcomes

I gained a greater understanding of how cotton fibres cope with the processes they are exposed to from raw cotton through the ginning process to yarn, and then to fabric formation. As a grower and picking contractor I found it a very educational to see what happens to the cotton fibres after they are pressed into a module and leave the farm. I have visited a cotton gin before, but have not seen inside the machines at the gin to understand the strain the cotton fibres are put under from the module to the pressed bale. To be able to see inside these machines and understand the mechanics of the ginning process was very beneficial. The opportunity to then see the spinning and weaving procedures all within the timeframe we visited was a valuable experience. The importance of strength in the cotton fibre is obvious, having seen these processes.

b) other highlights

To visit the spinning mill and see the process of how raw cotton is manufactured into yarn was great. As a grower, it gives you an insight into how leaf matter continues to play a role in yarn manufacture and how contamination on farm causes problems well past the ginning process.

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.)

The course was presented at CSIRO Materials, Science & Engineering, Geelong.

- CSIRO presenters: Rene van der Sluijs – research project leader, Dr Geoff Naylor – fibre properties, Dr Michael Bange – agronomy, Laurie Staynes – knitting, Andrew Jones – weaving, Frank Dean – dyeing & finishing.
- Geoff Dunlop – cotton picking contractor.
- Rob Eveleigh – extension agronomist with Cotton Seed Distributors.
- Phil Ryan – Trading & Export Manager for Queensland Cotton and Vice Chairman of the Australian Cotton Shippers Association.
- Dr Ian Russell – consultant, consulting for CSIRO.

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

Ensure we communicate with the gin about any possible difficulties they have ginning our cotton due to things we as growers have control over eg. defoliation and resulting leaf matter, timing of picking and moisture levels.

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

Australian growers need to continue growing high quality cotton, free of contamination to remain in the market as we are now. There is plenty of cheaper, less quality, contaminated cotton available elsewhere!!

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

Show other growers the samples from the course, providing a ‘visual story’ of what happens to cotton when it leaves the farm. Pass on information through our local Cotton Grower Association about the importance of contamination in modules and round bales.

Signature: Georgina Krieg _____