



Australian Government
**Cotton Research and
Development Corporation**

TRAVEL & CONFERENCE REPORT

Part 1 - Summary Details

CRDC Project Number: CRDC1307

Project Title: Cotton Field to Fabric Course

Project Commencement Date: 4/9/12 **Project Completion Date:** 6/9/12

Part2 – Travel Report

(Maximum two pages)

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

To attend the Cotton Field to Fabric Training Course at the CSIRO Materials Science and Engineering facility at Belmont, Geelong, Victoria.

2. What were the:

a) major findings and outcomes

The Field to Fabric course intensively looked at every step in the cotton supply chain from the growing of the cotton and it's agronomy to the end product fabric production and use. Its' design was to provide education, whether as a revision of knowledge, or to cover new material, to participants, no matter which their link in the industry chain. The aim was that participants would accept that the quality of the end product is influenced at every step of the chain and to achieve the best outcomes at every link of the chain, an overall understanding of the industry is beneficial.

b) other highlights

As a family member of a partnership new to the cotton growing industry and as a High School Textiles teacher, I found the course an invaluable experience. After having to learn and teach yarn and fabric production methods and textile properties and characteristics as a school teacher, I found seeing the cotton fibre being spun into yarn and then woven and knitted into fabric excellent. As the wife of a new grower, I found learning about cotton seed varieties, their characteristics and particularly the plant agronomy and physiology extremely interesting. I am now sharing and discussing this knowledge with other members of our cotton growing partnership.

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 held at the Commonwealth Science and Industry Research Organisation (CSIRO) Materials Science and Engineering (CMSE) facility at Belmont, Geelong, Victoria, from 4th to 6th September, 2012

The presenters were: Dr Geoff Naylor (CMSE), Rene van der Sluijs (CMSE), Robert Everleigh (Cotton Seed Distributors), Michael Bange (CSIRO Plant Industry), Geoff Dunlop (Picking and Ginning consultant), Phil Ryan (Australian Cotton shippers Association), Laurie Staynes (CMSE), Andrew Jones (CMSE), Frank Dean (CMSE), Dr Ian Russell (Consultant).

Start of Project
(normally 1st July)

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

After talking to Rene, Theodore State School is planning on arranging for him to organise to run the Field to Fabric one day course for school students next year, which we consider will be of huge benefit to our students who come from a cotton growing district. Following on from this Bronwyn Christensen, our Cotton Australia Regional Manager is going to approach other schools in the area to gauge their interest in running the course as well.

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

All knowledge and understanding gained at the course is relevant to us as part of the industry, to insure that we produce the best quality cotton we can, and continue to educate and encourage new people into the industry, and to gain the support of the local communities.

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

I am sharing the knowledge gained with the members of our cotton growing partnership, where possible, with students and members of my school community, and plan on speaking out our next growers' association meeting.

Please list expenditure incurred. (Double click inside the table to enter the data)

Signature: Christine Durkin