



Australian Government

**Cotton Research and
Development Corporation**

SCHOLARSHIP / SPONSORSHIP 2016

Part 1 - Summary Details

Please use your TAB key to complete Parts 1 & 2

CRDC Project Number: CRDC1313

Project Title: Cotton Production Course

Commencement Date: 2013 **Completion Date:** 2016

CRDC Research Program: 3 Customers

Part 2 – Contact Details

Applicant: Annette Heagney

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Signature of Applicant: Annette Heagney

Date Submitted: 03/04/2017

Part 3 – Scholarship or Sponsorship Report

(Maximum two pages)

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

The Cotton Production Course has immensely assisted me in my daily working life by providing a thorough understanding of cotton and the industry. The knowledge and skill set expanded upon throughout the course has enabled me to make informed decisions within our business, from the day-to-day operations through to the strategic and Board management decisions. The education I have received through the course has allowed me to confidently contribute towards the cotton and water user committees of which I am a member. I have also been able to expand on my knowledge by attending field days, the Cotton Conference and by having more informed conversations with fellow growers. The agronomics I have learnt through the course has been invaluable when applied to all facets of our mixed farming business. The Cotton Production Course provided me with an unexpected and extensive range of knowledge and skills relating to cotton, farming and business management that will continue to serve in my working life.

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

The Cotton Production Course has assisted me in my career path by enhancing my cropping knowledge and business management skills. I have been able to apply this education to my daily work life and further expand on the learnings in a practical manner. I have acquired a range of skills through the course that have contributed towards my personal and professional development, which allowed me to progress to General Manager of our business and be an effective Board member contributor.

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

The Cotton Production Course introduced and immersed me into the cotton industry, an aspect of the experience I value most. I was able to establish a variety of networks within this unique industry which have, and will to continue to be greatly beneficial towards my career and business. Throughout the course we were introduced to a wide range of people involved in the cotton industry. This exposure has expanded my appreciation for the roles these people play in helping to achieve Australia's strong global reputation for quality and ethically produced cotton. The professional networks established through the course have provided me with important contacts to assist with further expanding my cotton knowledge and helping to find innovative solutions towards profitable and sustainable farming practices.

4. How will completing the course benefit the industry?

My participation in the Cotton Production Course, as a young cotton grower new to the industry, has enabled me to be actively involved on industry committees. I have been able to effectively contribute through these committees to ensure the longevity of the cotton industry by promoting its economic and environmental sustainability. My involvement with these committees has also helped to ensure that the immeasurable amount of industry knowledge is passed on from the older, exiting generations to the younger generation. The Cotton Production Course has also enabled me to assist the promotion of the cotton industry by assisting to educate the children and non-growers in our community.

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

The Cotton Production Course has enabled me to engage in productive, knowledge-sharing discussions with others in the cotton industry at field days, conferences and meetings. I believe this open sharing of information, which is particular to the cotton industry, is a strength that will continue to drive high performing Australian cotton farms and retain our elevated position on the global market.

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

The course was well structured and timed to suit our farming operations. The location of the residential schools and variety in field trips provided a broad understanding of the cotton industry and its reach.

7. Please attach any supporting documentation or course completion transcript

Please email your report **30** days after course to: research@crdc.com.au