

9/89 - 6/90

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FINAL REPORT - COTTON RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

PROJECT CODE: CSP15L

PROJECT TITLE: SIRATAC - PLUS - Field Testing With Lead Users.

SUPERVISORS: Mr K Brook, Mr R Colomb.

FINAL REPORT: The objective for this project was to field test the basic pest management version of SIRATAC Plus and to educate SIRATAC Ltd field staff in the use of SIRATAC Plus.

The main objectives of this project have not been fulfilled. SIRATAC Plus was not delivered in a usable form for field testing for the 1989/90 cotton season.

The SIRATAC Plus trial on the research station was planned to compare SIRATAC Mk I against SIRATAC Plus with a variety of insect management strategies. Although SIRATAC Plus is not proceeding, the comparison of normal SIRATAC, extreme protection and multi thresholds is still continuing. This is consistent with the CRC entomology review executive summary recommendation 2.2.3 about expansion of pest management research. However the trial was severely damaged by hail and abandoned.

The SIRATAC Plus trial site is also being used for an irrigation trial to test the hydroLOGIC water management package now being developed under CSP8L (Development of microcomputer cotton management packages). This trial was also abandoned because of hail.

Software support for the SIRATAC Plus project was provided by Martin Dillon, who was employed on special CSIRO Information Technology funds until February 6, 1990. Dillon resigned in October and his successor (Christopher Nutt) was appointed in late November. In view of the CRC Entomology Review's support for the new initiatives in microcomputer-based decision support aids and their recommendation to redefine objectives and formalise already implemented changes and retitle projects (see CRC Entomology review, page 5, section 2.1 and p 6, 2.2.1) and the urgent need for a full-time Computer Systems Manager it was decided to retain Nutt as System Manager until June 30, 1990 utilising funds from this project (CSP15L). This arrangement has now been formalised in the new project of 1990/93, CSP22C, Computer Systems Manager for Narrabri.

