

## COTTON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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**PROJECT CODE:** CSP23C  
**ORGANISATION:** CSIRO Cotton Research Unit  
**PROJECT TITLE:** Upgrade of the VAX computer system at the Narrabri  
Agricultural Research Station  
**STAFF INVOLVED:** Mr C. Nutt

### FINAL REPORT:

This grant provides funds for the annual maintenance contract for the Vax 4000 computer system at NARS. The system has been installed and operational since October 5, 1990. Further upgrading was completed in August 1992 to increase the availability and reliability of the system, as well as increase its storage capacity to 6.6 Gigabytes. This upgrade was implemented smoothly, resulting in the problems and failures previously encountered being almost entirely eliminated with uptime being almost 100 per cent.

Research computer facilities at NARS have already proved themselves to be invaluable for the development of application packages for decision support such as SIRATAC, hydroLOGIC and entomoLOGIC, statistical analyses, general data processing, simulation modelling, word processing and presentation graphics. Much of the work completed in the last few years would have been difficult or impossible without adequate computer facilities.

Hardware and software maintenance is essential to optimise the use of the VAX 4000 minicomputer system and to ensure a reliable service in a critical multi-user environment. This will be particularly important with the recent approval of a CRC for Sustainable Cotton Production based at Narrabri. Maintenance is provided for through contracts with DEC, which ensure access to on-line support and prompt service from Sydney or Dubbo. Licensing costs for various software packages required on the Vax are also included here.

