

## Annual Report Summary

Project Code: CSP48C

### Upgrade and Maintenance of Cotton Industry Weather Station Network

This project commenced on the 1st July, 1993.

Since that time the following has occurred:

- (1) Tender documents were prepared for a set of 15 weather stations for the new network. This included preparation of a detailed specification for the weather station hardware.
- (2) A specification for the network software was developed. Ms Carol Jeffries was contracted to write the system software.
- (3) 13 tenders for the weather station hardware were received by the due date. A committee comprising Lance McKewen, Martin Dillon and Jack Kruizinga examined each of the tenders in detail, noting especially their compliance with the original specification.
- (4) The tenders were short listed to 3. These 3 were invited to provide demonstrations of their systems and subsequently 2 demonstrations were held at Myall Vale and two officers travelled to Caboolture for the third demonstration. Further detailed enquiries were directed to each of the 3 leading contenders.
- (5) Northern Rivers Industrial Electronics were awarded the contract to supply the weather stations. The 15 stations were delivered in November 1993. This delivery date made it very difficult to commission the stations for the 1993/94 season.
- (6) The locations for the 15 stations were finalised as Dalby, Emerald, Theodore, Anchorfield, Byee, Boggabilla, Midkin, Bourke, Breeza, Warren, Myall Vale, St George plus new stations at Iffley, Merah North and Tandau.
- (7) The stations at Dalby, Anchorfield and Byee were installed in November. Initial testing highlighted some problems with lightning protection, bird proofing and data logger setup. These problems were referred to Northern Rivers for rectification.
- (8) Upgraded lightning protection, revised datalogging firmware and birdproofing were received from Northern Rivers in December 1993.
- (9) Carol Jeffries has substantially completed software to download the weather data to the VAX computer and is currently working on a system to provide on-line weather information to users in the cotton industry.
- (10) As of 30/6/94, 12 of the 15 stations have been installed. However continuing problems with communications have delayed final commissioning of the weather stations and the software. The problem was eventually traced to faulty modems supplied by Northern Rivers. N.R.I.E. have agreed to replace the modems and so far 4 of the replacement modems have been received. **The 4 stations with the new modems are working satisfactorily.**

Northern Rivers will supply the remaining replacement modems so that the weather station network can be commissioned before the 1994/95 cotton season.