

Cotton Research and Development Corporation

FINAL REPORT

on

Project DAN150C

Safety at Harvest

March 2001 to December 2001

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NSW Agriculture

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Project Aim

The aim of the project was to produce a video to highlight the hazards and dangers associated with the cotton harvest operation and to highlight the control measures that can be put in place to minimise the risks of those hazards.

Through this aim the project seeks to reduce the number of accidents during cotton harvest and to promote community awareness of the cotton industry's best management practices on occupational health and safety.

Background to the Project

Historically the cotton harvest has been a dangerous operation. Every year someone is killed during the harvest. Powerlines are the biggest culprit and a number of injuries also occur during picker operations and around module builders. The Occupational Health and Safety Act requires that employers ensure the health and safety of all employees in the workplace. All employees must be trained in and competent at their jobs. All hazards in the workplace must be identified and appropriate control measures put in place to minimise the risk of injury.

Invariably the cotton harvest period brings together a large number of people new to the industry, working for the first time around machines they know little of nothing about and unaware of the hazards and dangers associated with the work environment. They often have little time to become experienced.

Results and Discussion

A video was produced with the assistance and cooperation of a number of cotton growers and processors. The final version of the OH&S video "Safety at Harvest" was completed in December 2001.

An initial production run of 600 copies was followed in March 2002 with another 300 copies. Promotion and extension of the video was done by Industry Development and Departmental Officers in both New South Wales and Queensland using pre-harvest field days and meetings, the Cotton Trade Show and the 10th Australian Cotton Conference. The TRC also played an important role in its promotion and distribution.

The video has proved to be an excellent way for cotton growers and contractors to clearly demonstrate the dangers and hazards involved in the harvest operation and to provide training in the correct way to do the job. It was well received by growers and contractors alike and was used as part of the on-farm pre-harvest OH&S induction meetings on a number of properties. The video also complements the recently CRDC funded OH&S module developed for the industry.

Financial Summary

Funding for the project was comprised of contributions of \$26761 from the Cotton Research and Development Corporation and \$16550 from NSW Agriculture.

Expenditure of CRDC funds was as follows;

Year	Expenditure (\$)
2000/01	1072
2001/02	16603
Total	17675