

COTTON RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION



FINAL REPORT

***UPGRADE NARRABRI
INSECTARY AND
CONFERENCE FACILITIES***

DAN 63C
1991 - 1992

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NSW AGRICULTURE

COTTON RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

UPGRADE NARRABRI INSECTARY AND CONFERENCE FACILITIES

FINAL REPORT

Project Number: DAN 63C

Field of Research: Research Training: 7.1

Organisation: NSW Agriculture

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Project Commenced 1/7/91 **Project Completed** 30/6/92

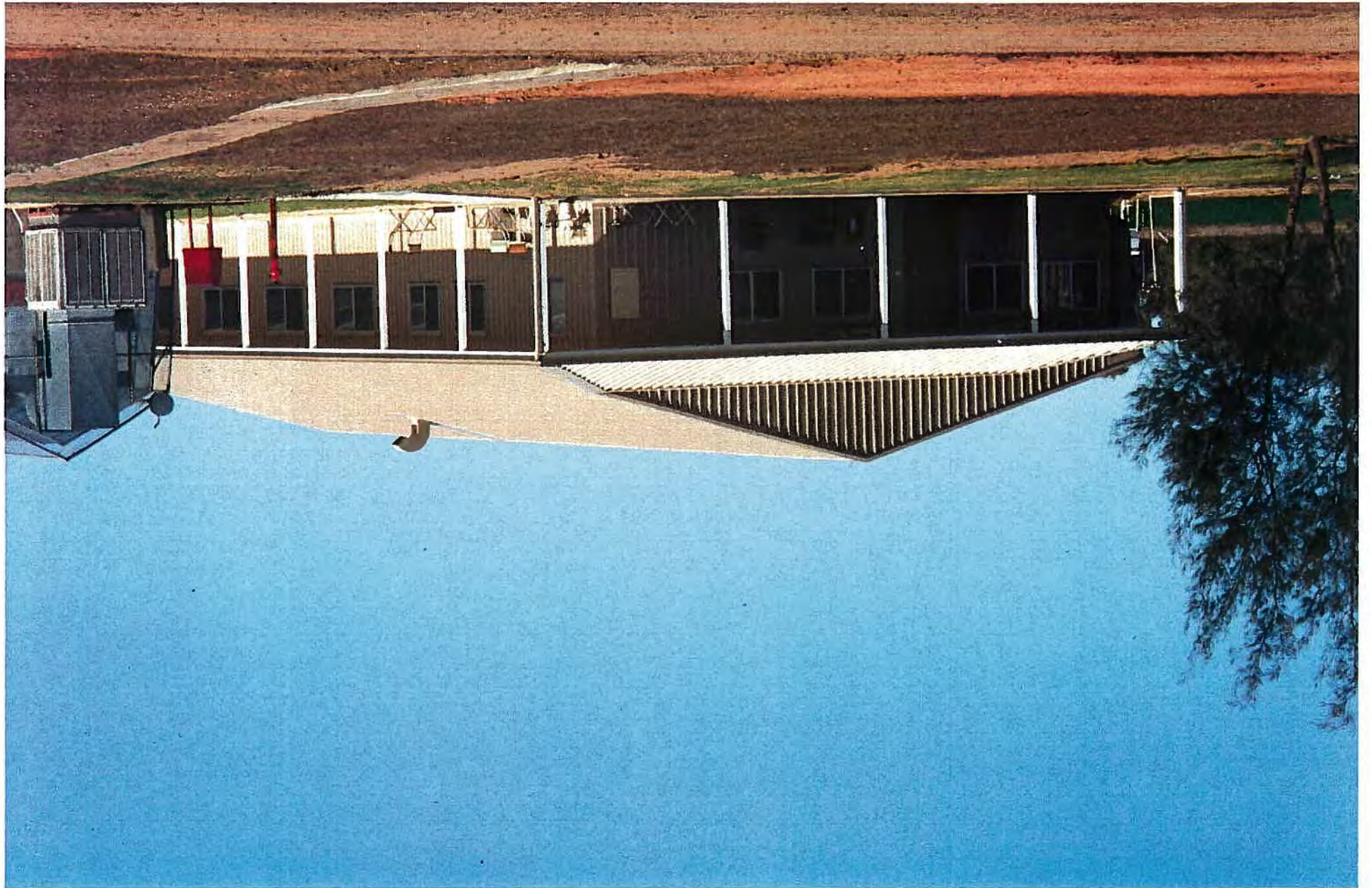
Project Objectives:

The overall aim is to house current and future staff for our expanded research projects in the next decade. The better accommodation will improve the standard of work from existing projects and also allow some important new initiatives to be undertaken. This project included:

1. *The construction of a new insectary to alleviate overcrowding and allow for further expansion in entomology research staff numbers.*
2. *The construction of a new conference facility with a seating capacity of 100. The space freed from within the present building will allow:*
 - (i) *expansion of office and laboratory numbers to cater for additional research staff, visiting scientists and post-graduate students and*
 - (ii) *combine the administrative offices of NSW Agriculture and CSIRO, so that all staff and equipment will be housed in one open room.*



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REPORT

1. The Need for Additional Facilities

Narrabri Agricultural Research Station is the national research centre for cotton and a major centre for soybean research in NSW. The previous office-laboratory building was planned and built in the early 1970's. Since that time the cotton industry has increased tenfold, and the number of research staff has also increased markedly. Furthermore, the extension staff originally located in the Narrabri Government Office block have been located at the research station since 1985. The important advances made in new varieties, crop management (agronomy, pathology and pests) and decision support packages have continued under difficult working conditions. Further advancement with new projects was limited by the absence of laboratory and office space.

The existing insectary was overcrowded. It houses two substantial programs of research on *Heliothis*, employing up to 17 staff during the summer months. The absence of working space and other facilities often posed as a major limiting factor in the success of research programs. The conference room had a maximum limit to seat 45 people and was too small to meet the needs of the many meetings and workshops. The room was of a poor standard for audio-visual presentation and had inadequate ventilation, heating and cooling.

The existing main office and laboratory building had reached their limit for accommodation of research, technical support, clerical and advisory staff. Expanding research staff or hosting of visiting scientists or short term graduate or doctoral students was not possible.

2. Building Program

The primary aim of the projects was to :

1. Construct a new insectary to alleviate the overcrowding and allow for further expansion in the entomology research staff numbers.

A 250 m² insectary was constructed to house the research program of Dr Forrester and Dr Fitt. This building consisted of four constant temperature rooms used for egg hatchings, two moth room (controlled temperature and humidity) for base population studies, a cool room/developing room, a testing area, three offices for technical support staff and a central work area.

This new laboratory is approximately 2.5 times larger than the existing facility and provides excellent facilities and work space necessary to continue the resistance and ecology research programs.

The existing insectary has been upgraded to meet the requirements of both the mite program and the early season studies of Dr Wilson and Dr Mensah, respectively. Included in this upgraded was the installation of a fume cupboard necessary to meet the safety requirement of the research program, together with improved cooling, sink areas and work areas.

2. The construction of a new conference facility and additional office space.

A 500 m² extension to the existing main building provided the necessary space for a 100 seat fully equipped conference room. This area can be divided, by way of a tracked partition, into two separate areas providing greater flexibility during meeting or workshop procedures. Suitable audio-visual equipment was purchased to enable quality presentation by both research staff and visitors to the centre. The conference area was dedicated, at the official opening, as the Richard Williams

Conference Centre, recognising the outstanding commitment of Richard to the Australian Cotton industry and in particular his support to the research function at the centre.

The Agricultural Research Station holds a large number of reference books and journal which are used both by research staff and interested public on a regular basis. The construction of a larger area for the library has allowed the centralisation of the reference documents, together with a reading area and a computer based graphics/demonstration unit. The old library area has been converted into a discussion room which can easily accommodate up to 20 people. This room has a high occupancy rate by both research staff and visitors, as it provides an ideal facility for small discussion groups.

The building program provided an opportunity to centralise the clerical staff from both NSW Agriculture and CSIRO. The construction of this area, new offices and the remodelling of the previous administration area has provided an additional seven offices which will be used to support the expansion by both organisations of permanent and temporary staff. It is anticipated that by January 1993, only two of these offices will remain vacant, reflecting the expansion in research staff at the centre.

Associated with the building program was an upgrade of existing 'in-house' computer networks. Additional hardware was purchased to connect the additional offices and insectaries providing excellent computer communication facilities at the station. During the program the station also upgraded its computer line to the weather station providing more reliable and rapid interrogation.

The additional offices and insectary areas exceeded the capacity of the existing PABX to service the station. This project provided the funds to upgrade the PABX system to a expandable 100 extension Ericsson system. During early negotiations with Telecom, NSW Agriculture was able to negotiate the connection of a fibre optic external cable to the station. This facility, which ties the research station into the main Brisbane - Melbourne cable running 5 km west of the station will allow the station to develop the most up to date communication system for Australian and Worldwide access.

3. Research and Support Staff

The construction of these additional facilities have assisted in the expansion of both research and technical support staff. The following table highlights the staff level for both organisations and identified those new position recently appointed or which will be appointed in the near future.

Category	NSW Agriculture	CSIRO
Research	N. Forrester (Entomology)	N. Thomson (Cotton Breeding)
	S. Allen (Pathology)	P. Reid (Cotton Breeding)
	G. Charles (Weeds)	G. Fitt (Entomology)
	R. Mensah (Entomology) *	G. Constable (Agronomy)
	N. Hulugalle (Soils) *	B. Hearn (Agronomy)
	P. Wright (Agronomy) *	L. Wilson (Entomology)
	R. Eveleigh (Advisory)	M. Dillon (Entomology)
	I. Rose (Soybeans)	G. Dillon (Entomology)
	R. Martin (Manager)	A. Wells (Agronomy)
	Program Leader - vacant #	L. McKewen (Modelling) *
	Pathologist - vacant #	S. McFarlane (Modelling)
		W. Madden (Modelling) *
		C. Nutt (Computing)
		Experimental Scientist #
	Post-Doctoral #	
	Visiting Scientist #	
Technical	L. Bird (Entomology)	C. Mares (Entomology)
	D. Larsen (Soils)	L. Bauer (Entomology)
	L. Heuke (Soybeans)	
	Technical Officer - vacant #	
	Technical Officer - vacant #	
	Technical Officer - vacant #	
	Technical Officer - vacant #	
Clerical	A. Wood	K. Parker
	L. Williamson	S. Foley
	Clerical Officer - vacant	S. Rees

* recruited in previous 8 months

expected recruitment in next 6 months

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

ITEM	1991/92	1992/93	1993/94
Total Staff Costs	-		
Total Travel	-		
Total Operating	-		
Capital	971,000		
Total Requested	971,000		

All funds have been expended on the design, construction and fitout of the new insectary and conference facility

INSECTARY



CEMENT POUR



CLADDING



GYPROCK



LOCK UP

CONFERENCE ROOM and OFFICE AREA



FOUNDATIONS



FLOORING



WALL FRAME



ENTRANCE



ROOF BEAMS



LIBRARY



GALLERY



CLADDING