

Report Cover Sheet for Annual & Final Reports

The following Reporting Requirements MUST BE MET

All Projects

You must submit an **ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT** by the first Friday in February 1999, detailing the progress of your research. **NOTE: IF you are seeking continuation of funding for 2000-2001 for the project, this report will form the basis for CRDC's consideration of ongoing funding. Please complete the budgetary requirements if this is a continuing project.**

Terminating Projects

A **FINAL REPORT** must be submitted within three months of completion of the project. This applies in **ALL** cases including research projects, travel, conference attendances, postgraduate, postdoctoral and funded capital items.

Tick Report Purpose

Annual Progress Report (Due 1st Fri Feb. to determine continuation of funding)

Final Report (Due 30 September or 3 months after completion of project)

Actual start date:
1 June 1998

Anticipated completion date:
30 March 1999

OFFICE USE ONLY:

Date of receipt:

Project title (as per original application)

Adoption of fusarium wilt management strategies in the cotton industry

CRDC Project Code
DAQ87C

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Annual Progress Report

Introduction

This project have been highly successful in raising the awareness of fusarium wilt of cotton growers and of the cotton industry generally. Greater awareness of the disease, the importance of growing tolerant varieties in minimising the effects of the disease, and the importance of machinery washdown as a strategy to minimise disease spread both on-farm and between growing districts are positive outcomes of the project's activities.

To what extent have the project objectives been achieved?

A concerted effort to distribute fusarium wilt disease information to the cotton industry through leadership of this project has resulted in:-

- Greatly increased awareness of fusarium wilt of cotton growers, consultants and industry in all cotton growing areas;
- Increased knowledge and uptake of on-farm, and inter-region practises to limit the spread of fusarium wilt;
- Increased collaboration between the DPI/FSI, CRC National Cotton Extension Team and the CCA on the management fusarium wilt;
- Machinery washdown as a management strategy to reduce the spread of the disease.

What conclusions (if any) have been reached?

This project has in a limited time (funding 6 months) enabled a concentrated industry focus on the disease and extension of the management options currently available. However the need for this work, both in research and extension of fusarium wilt management will be ongoing as resistant varieties are as yet unavailable, and crop rotation options to manage the disease in affected areas are as yet not fully understood.

Have you encountered any difficulties with the research project?

Extensive flooding in southern Queensland and northern NSW during the planned extension program delayed activities of the project prior to planting of the 1998/9 cotton crop. The postponed activities are to be undertake in early 1999.

What additional Activities have been undertaken during the year?

- CRDC Insecticide Resistance - Disease Management Industry tour - Gunnedah to Emerald (June 1998);
- Invited exhibitor - Fusarium Wilt Washdown Promotion, Australian Cottongrower - Moree Cotton Trade Show (June 1998);
- Washdown Promotion (\$3000.00 high pressure cleaner give-away) Australian Cotton Conference (August 1998);
- Presented conference paper - proceedings Australian Cotton Conference (August 1998);
- Completion of cotton industry contractor data base.

Are there any other aspects of the project you wish to report on?

This project has received enormous support from industry and particularly the CCA.

What Publications / Published Findings have emanated from the research so far? (Please list)

- conference paper - proceedings Australian Cotton Conference (August 1998);
- Washdown Croplink broucher (in preparation);
- Video interviews - (*The Australian Cotton Video; The Cotton Report*);
- Washdown video (in preparation);
- newspaper articles (*Cotton Insights; Cotton Outlook*)
- *Australian Cotton Grower* magazine Article
- Darling Downs Trials Booklet - chapter (in preparation);
- CRDC - *Spotlight on Research* article 1998

Have you been involved with any presentations / field days / communication of research to industry? (if so, give brief summaries of these)

- Presented conference paper - proceedings Australian Cotton Conference (August 1998);
- Washdown Promotion (\$3000.00 high pressure cleaner give-away) Australian Cotton Conference (August 1998) This greatly supported promotion was funded through sponsorship from high profile national and local businesses servicing the cotton industry. The promotion highlighted washdown of machinery as an effective means of reducing the spread of fusarium wilt from infected cotton producing areas to presently wilt free regions.;
- Soil Training Workshop - Darling Downs (July 1998);
- Grower Association meetings (Second round)at, Warren, Wee Waa, and planned for St George, Emerald Dirranbandi (Jan/Feb 1999);
- Fieldday/farmwalk at fusarium trial site Mywybilla Darling Downs (planned for Feb 1999);

If your project is not continuing into the following financial year, you must still submit an annual progress report