

## **STRUCTURAL ASPECTS OF COTTON FIBRE MATURITY**

Funded by the Cotton Research and Development Corporation under the general topic "Physical and Chemical Studies of Cotton Fibre Maturity", the project has focused on searching for links between the morphological structure of the cotton fibre and its measured maturity.

Despite a widespread, though incomplete, search of the literature; and discussions and correspondence with leading researchers here and abroad, we found no mention of a significant link. We soon learned not to be surprised, as there is much advanced work by specialists unfamiliar with related fields. For instance, an abundance of publications by botanists and plant physiologists contained no references to maturity.

We found it necessary to identify and monitor several peripheral aspects, with which we are not necessarily familiar, only acquainted. Box 1 represents these as a list, but they can be imagined as a diagram, with the nine topics surrounding and penetrating the central issue of maturity relationships. We hope that this will be helpful to other researchers having expertise in some of these fringe areas. Several other areas, notably processing, are excluded.