



CottonInfo Annual Operational Plan

2025–26

HELPING YOU GROW



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About CottonInfo

CottonInfo is the Australian cotton industry's extension program, designed to deliver research and development (R&D) outcomes to cotton growers and consultants.

It is a partnership of the Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC), Cotton Australia and Cotton Seed Distributors (CSD) to deliver industry good.

The CottonInfo Management Committee, comprised of representatives of CRDC and Cotton Australia, leads the CottonInfo program. CRDC manages the program and team, Cotton Australia delivers the industry's best management practices program *myBMP*, and CSD is a key investor.

CottonInfo gratefully acknowledges the funding it receives from CSD to support the Regional Extension Officers and the activities they undertake for the benefit of the industry.

CottonInfo connects growers and consultants with the latest R&D to help achieve best practice. The team works across a broad portfolio, aligned with CRDC's Strategic Plan Clever Cotton and the cotton industry's sustainability framework PLANET. PEOPLE. PADDock.



The CottonInfo Annual Operational Plan

The CottonInfo Annual Operational Plan 2025–26 (AOP) is a companion document to the CottonInfo Strategic Plan 2025–28. It covers the period July 2025 to June 2026.

The purpose of the AOP is to:

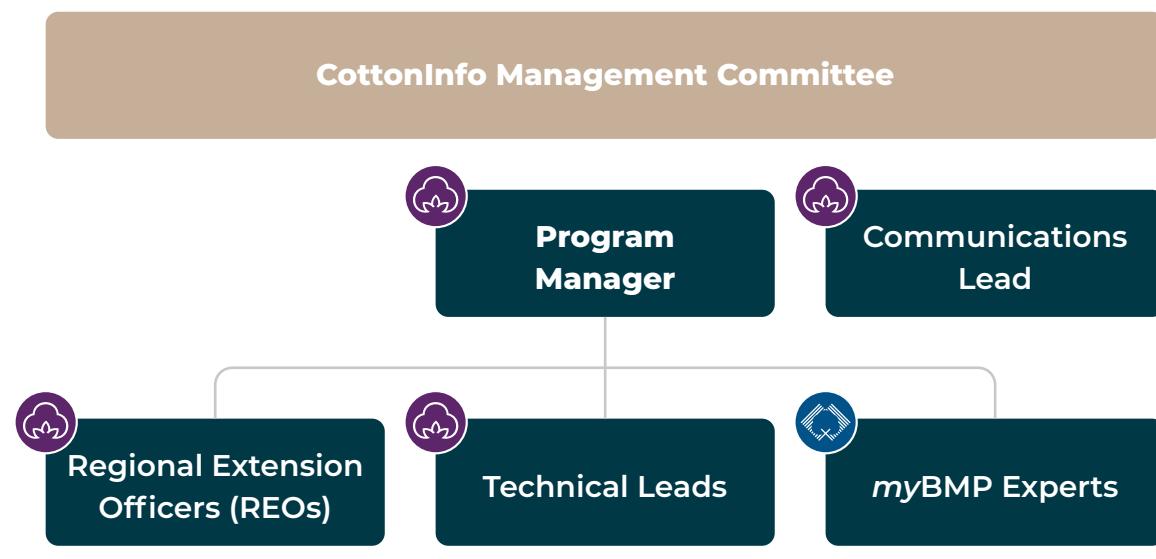
- » Outline CottonInfo's delivery against the Strategic Plan goals in this period.
- » Build on previous extension activities and consider opportunities or issues arising in the field.
- » Assess new CRDC-supported research projects for their extension requirements, in conjunction with the CRDC Innovation team, and integrate these into CottonInfo activities.



The CottonInfo Team

Led by the CottonInfo Management Committee, the CottonInfo team comprises a Program Manager, a Communications Lead, and three sub-teams: Regional Extension Officers (REOs), Technical Leads and *myBMP* experts. CRDC employs the Program Manager, Communications Lead and REOs as part of the CRDC Communications and Extension team, and manages the Technical Leads via CRDC-supported research projects. Cotton Australia employs the *myBMP* experts. Funding for the REOs and their activities is provided by CSD.

CottonInfo Team Structure



Employment/management by:



CRDC



Cotton Australia

CottonInfo's 2025-28 Strategic Goals

The CottonInfo program has two overarching strategic goals for the 2025–28 period, with supporting objectives. This AOP contains annual objectives to ensure the achievement of the Strategic Plan goals. These objectives are then reflected in the annual work plans of the REOs and milestones of the Technical Leads and *myBMP* experts.



Strategic Goal 1:

Helping grow industry profitability through extending CRDC and other industry R&D to meet current and future challenges.

Objectives:

- A. Leading adoption of best management practices and the latest research to improve efficiency, profitability and resilience.
- B. Enabling the adaptation of best management practice and latest technologies to ensure solutions are fit for purpose.
- C. Capturing emerging issues from industry to inform research priorities.

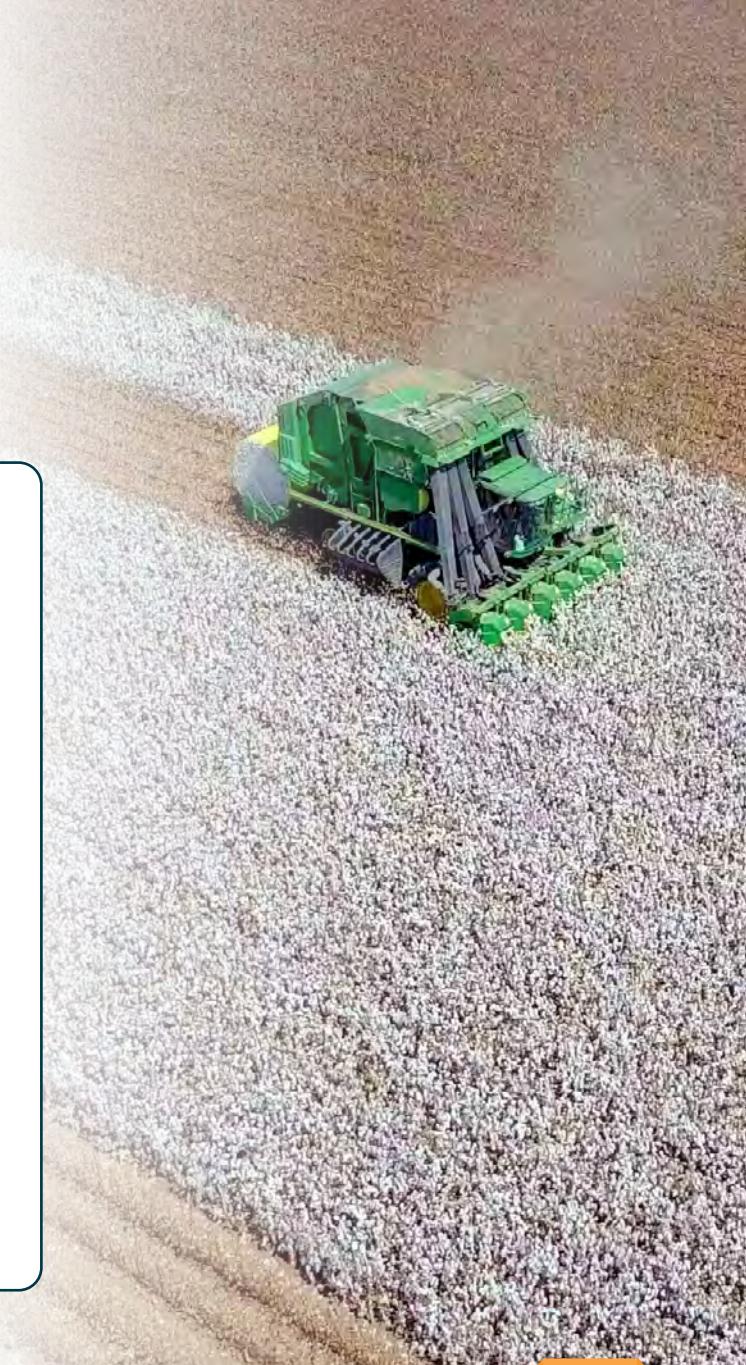


Strategic Goal 2:

Helping grow the industry's sustainability and responsiveness to threats and risks.

Objectives:

- A. Supporting Cotton Australia to encourage grower participation in *myBMP*, to contribute to the Australian cotton industry sustainability framework PLANET. PEOPLE. PADDOCK.
- B. Providing capacity and support to industry for effective preparedness and response to biosecurity incursions and unforeseen events.
- C. Increasing grower awareness of the Australian cotton industry sustainability framework.



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Priority topics for extension 2025–26

The CottonInfo team works across a broad range of topics, aligned with CRDC and other industry research, including biosecurity, climate, crop nutrition, disease management, energy use efficiency, fibre quality, insect and mite management, natural resource management, pesticide input efficiency, soil health, stewardship, water management and weed control.

While all of these topic areas are important, key areas of focus for CottonInfo extension each year are prioritised in collaboration with CRDC, with reference to the CRDC Strategic Plan and the industry's Sustainability Framework, and with consideration to key regional extension priorities.



For 2025–26, the priorities are:

- 1. Nitrogen use efficiency, soil health, and carbon footprint:** Nitrogen (N) management is one of cotton's biggest levers to reduce our carbon footprint. Over-application of N can lead to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, off-site impacts (runoff and leaching), and negative production impacts. CottonInfo will help growers improve their N use efficiency and soil health, in alignment with the CRDC Strategic Plan carbon theme, the CRDC GHG emissions reduction research strategy, and cotton's PLANET. PEOPLE. PADDOCK. Sustainability Framework. CottonInfo will work closely with the GRDC/CRDC Low Emissions Intensity Farming Systems (LEIFS) project to showcase emission reduction technologies and practices. CottonInfo's Carbon Tech Lead, Jon Welsh, will present several carbon workshops across the industry to equip growers and consultants with knowledge and science to make sound decisions around carbon farming.
- 2. Integrated pest management (IPM):** Insecticide resistance issues, coupled with the reduction of available insecticides due to regulation, are posing management challenges for growers. Early season insect management is crucial to avoid unnecessary insecticide use and promote beneficials. CottonInfo will provide contemporary advice and troubleshooting for insect management, in line with IPM principles, the Insecticide Resistance Management Strategy (IRMS) and the CRDC Strategic Plan adaptive systems theme.
- 3. Disease management:** CottonInfo will support the CRDC-led Australian Cotton Disease Collaboration (ACDC) by providing a regional perspective of disease issues, facilitating the collection of samples for disease identification, and conducting early and late season disease surveys for disease surveillance. CottonInfo will continue to support on-farm trials to demonstrate best disease management practice.



4. Biosecurity: Cotton's best defence against exotic incursions is preparedness. The industry also needs to be ready for swift action via detection, reporting and communication once a pest has arrived. A key focus for 2025-26 is ensuring preparedness: by supporting growers to implement good biosecurity practices, and in ensuring the CottonInfo team are trained to respond in their role as Industry Liaison Officers under cotton's Biosecurity Incident Standard Operating Procedure (BISOP).

5. Water use efficiency: CottonInfo plays an important role in helping the industry continue to improve its water use efficiency: a key focus of both the PLANET. PEOPLE. PADDock. Sustainability Framework and the CRDC Strategic Plan. Extension efforts focus on supporting growers to adopt practices to reduce losses in storage and transmission, and improving application efficiency.

6. Natural resource management: There is increasing global pressure for cotton to conserve and improve biodiversity for market access and social licence. In line with the CRDC Strategic Plan natural capital theme, CottonInfo will support growers to understand biodiversity measurement and monitoring.

7. Pesticide input efficiency: CottonInfo will continue supporting industry efforts to help guard against spray drift through proactive extension. This will include supporting efforts to increase awareness and adoption of Cotton Australia's SataCrop and Snap Send Solve apps, and the CRDC, GRDC and Goanna Ag Weather and Networked Data (WAND) system. CottonInfo is also leading a project to pilot a series of different spray drift extension activities (agronomist master classes, spray application workshops and a spray application help hotline) in the Macquarie and Murray regions in partnership with CRDC, NSW SOS and GRDC to evaluate their effectiveness and to provide recommendations for future activities.



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Priority regions for extension 2025–26

CottonInfo aspires to support all cotton growers, irrespective of location, in connection with research and adoption of best practice.



Established cotton regions

CottonInfo has a physical presence across seven cotton growing valleys via the team of REOs: Central Qld, Border Rivers/St George/Dirranbandi, Darling Downs, Gwydir Valley, Namoi Valley, Macquarie Valley and Southern NSW.

In early 2025, the management of the REOs moved from CSD to CRDC, with three REOs transitioning across to CRDC, and four newly recruited as part of the CRDC team. As a result, a priority focus for CottonInfo in 2025–26 is ensuring that these REOs are embedded into the CottonInfo team and their respective valleys, and that strong relationships are being built and continuously developed across these valleys to support information exchange and best practice adoption.



Establishing cotton regions

The Northern Australian cotton industry continues to develop in Western Australia, the Northern Territory and Far North Queensland. As of 2025, the Northern Australia region is serviced by staff from Cotton Australia, CSD, the Northern Australian Crop Research Alliance (NACRA), and the WA and NT Departments.

CottonInfo does not have a physical presence in the region, instead collaborating remotely with these staff and their networks, and supporting growers and consultants through the technical expertise of visiting Technical Leads. Most of the CottonInfo Technical Leads have toured these regions in recent years to better understand grower and consultant extension needs and participate in cotton workshops, field days and research, with more visits planned, including by the CottonInfo Program Manager.

Additional CottonInfo resourcing requirements will be strategically considered in 2025–26.



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Stakeholder engagement and communication

CottonInfo's strong stakeholder engagement is a cornerstone of the program.

At the program level, the CottonInfo Management Committee, comprised of the CottonInfo Program Manager and CRDC and Cotton Australia representatives, meet quarterly to discuss strategic matters. The CottonInfo Program Manager, CRDC and CSD also meet quarterly to ensure coordination of research and extension.

At the regional level, coordination between the regional partner representatives is achieved through regular interaction between the CottonInfo REOs, the Cotton Australia Regional Managers and the CSD Extension and Development team to ensure opportunities for collaboration are realised.

At the focus-area level, the CottonInfo Technical Leads engage closely with the CRDC Innovation Brokers and researchers in their technical areas, and are the point of contact between CottonInfo and relevant research organisations.

At the communications level, the CottonInfo Communications Lead works to implement the CottonInfo communications strategy, which helps deliver the CottonInfo Strategic Plan. The Lead works closely with the communications teams within all three partner organisations to ensure alignment of activities and messaging.

Program management

Details of CottonInfo's planned extension activities for each year are captured in the activity matrix in the AOP (see appendix one), with progress tracked through the team project management tool, ASANA. This process identifies specific actions to be undertaken, with details provided regarding context, inputs, outcomes and collaboration.

As part of this process, each year, all new CRDC R&D projects are assessed for their suitability for extension. CottonInfo uses a four-point H.A.R.D assessment of projects to determine: if **help** is required by the team; if **awareness** should be raised regarding the R&D; if the project is a **resource** providing expertise or key knowledge; or if there is a specific regional **demonstration** associated.

Monitoring and evaluation

CottonInfo's objectives and measures are set in the CottonInfo Strategic Plan, and annualised here for the 2025–26 year. Achievement will be monitored, evaluated and reported as part of CRDC and CottonInfo's M&E Framework, and reported to the CottonInfo Management Committee and the CRDC board.

CRDC Strategic Plan re CottonInfo



People: Adoption and impact



| Objective | Impact target | Measure | Metric |
|--|--|--|--|
| Adopt knowledge and technology through dedicated development and delivery pathways | In 2028, adoption has increased its rate, reach and effectiveness. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">» Percentage of growers actively contributing to RD&E adaptation through regional trials and data collection. Percentage of growers actively engaged with RD&E programs.» Percentage of growers recognise that CRDC and CottonInfo have contributed to improving their productivity and sustainability. | <ul style="list-style-type: none">» 10 per cent of growers are involved in increasing utility and adaptation of research outcomes through trials and data collection.» 90 per cent of growers recognise that CRDC and CottonInfo have contributed to their productivity and sustainability. |



CottonInfo Strategic Plan goals

| Strategic Goal 1: <i>Helping grow industry profitability through extending CRDC and other industry R&D to meet current and future challenges.</i> | | | |
|--|--|--|---|
| Objective | Impact target | Measure | Metric |
| Leading adoption of best management practices and the latest research to improve efficiency, profitability and resilience. | By 2028, CottonInfo has assisted growers and consultants to adopt best management practices and the latest research. | » Increase in growers and consultants knowledge, attitude, skills, aspirations and practice change (KASAP). | » 70 per cent of growers and consultants have increased their KASAP regarding best management practice and the latest research as a result of engaging with CottonInfo. |
| Enabling the adaptation of best management practice and latest technologies to ensure solutions are fit for purpose. | By 2028, technologies and management practices are adapted to different regional and farming system contexts. | » Number of growers that agree the on farm trials and/or demonstrations have influenced their intention to change their farming practice. | » 70 per cent of growers agree that on-farm trials and/or demonstrations have influenced their intention to change their farming practice. |
| Capturing emerging issues from industry to inform research priorities. | By 2028, growers and consultants are actively contributing to research ideation and priority setting. | » Growers and consultants agree they can effectively raise research gaps and opportunities. The percentage of these ideas that are incorporated into R&D planning. | » An increase in the number of RD&D priorities and ideas provided to CottonInfo and CRDC. |



Strategic Goal 2:

Helping grow the industry's sustainability and responsiveness to threats and risks.

| Objective | Impact target | Measure | Metric |
|---|--|---|--|
| Supporting Cotton Australia to encourage grower participation in <i>myBMP</i> , to contribute to the Australian cotton industry sustainability framework. | By 2028, CottonInfo is an active promoter of the <i>myBMP</i> program, and <i>myBMP</i> modules are up to date with best practice information via Technical Leads. | » Growers participating or planning to participate in <i>myBMP</i> , and citing CottonInfo as a significant influence in their decision. | » 70 per cent of growers are aware of the linkage between <i>myBMP</i> and the Australian cotton industry sustainability framework, through CottonInfo extension. |
| Providing capacity and support for effective preparedness and response to biosecurity incursions and unforeseen events. | By 2028, the CottonInfo team have the skills, capacity and resourcing to assist growers and consultants with biosecurity incursions or unforeseen events. | » Support provided by the CottonInfo team in the case of biosecurity incursions or unforeseen events. | » 100 per cent of the CottonInfo team are prepared for an industry emergency. 70 per cent of growers find CottonInfo support during the recovery of unforeseen events. |
| Increasing grower awareness of the Australian cotton industry sustainability framework. | By 2028, growers and consultants are aware of the environmental, economic and social sustainability topics as per the cotton industry sustainability framework. | » Average increase in grower and consultant KASAP associated with key framework topics: water use efficiency, nitrogen use efficiency, integrated pest management, carbon/greenhouse gas emissions, soil health, and native vegetation. | » 70 per cent of growers and consultants have an increase in KASAP regarding the Australian cotton sustainability framework as a result of CottonInfo extension. |

APPENDIX 1: 2025–26 Activity Matrix

This activity matrix outlines the CottonInfo activities for 2025–26, their outcomes, and the CRDC research with which it aligns. Each project has been categorised via the H.A.R.D. assessment:



Help required from the team



Awareness for end users



Resource of expertise or key knowledge



Demonstration associated with the project

» **[HARD]** Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate





Priority area 1:

Nitrogen use efficiency, soil health, carbon footprint

» **[HARD]** Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate

| Technical Data | Outcomes | Outputs | Relevant research projects (Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate) |
|--|---|--|---|
| Nutrition and soil health workshops | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Improved management of N fertiliser and reduced excessive application of N. » Increased awareness of the soil as a living ecosystem (aligned with PLANET. PEOPLE. PADDOCK Sustainability Framework). » Higher uptake of enhanced efficiency fertiliser for better N efficiency. » Increased awareness of irrigation management influence on nutrient efficiency (the fifth R for N tactics). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Three nutrition and soil health workshops: Gwydir, Central Qld and Macquarie | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Optimising irrigation performance in bankless channel cotton layouts to improve water management and nitrogen use efficiency (DU2301 Wendy Quayle Deakin Uni Jul 22–Jun 26) [A,R] » Understanding nitrogen (N) cycling in cotton soils, and the timing of N availability to plant roots (CSIRO10081 Dio Antille CSIRO Oct 23–Sep 26) [R] » De-risking N decision making: Insuring against yield loss through N fertiliser reduction (CSIRO10999 Peter Thorburn CSIRO Apr 24–Feb 27) [H] » Benchmarking soil carbon, soil properties and management between long term experimental sites and on-farm cotton industry sites (DAN2305 Guna Nachimuthu NSW DPIRD Jul 22–Jun 25) [R] » PhD: Crop rotation as a tool to ameliorate soil compaction in modern cotton farming systems. (DAN10920 Blake Palmer NSW DPIRD Jul 23–Jun 27) [A,R,D] » Low Emissions Intensity Cotton Farming Systems (LIEFS NSW) (DAN 11402 Aaron Simmons NSW DPIRD Oct 24–Jun 28) [H,A,R,D] » Future Cotton: Innovation and impact for sustainability, biosecurity & growth (DAQ11744 Paul Grundy May 25–Jun 29) [H,A,R] » Assessing the critical N and P values of cotton cultivars for improved yield and fertiliser efficiency (UQ2301 Tim McLaren UQ Jul 22–Jun 25) [A,R] » Future Drought Fund Grant: Long-term drought resilient practices for climate-smart cropping systems (DAN11790 Guna Nachimuthu NSW DPIRD May 2025–June 2030) |
| Energy case studies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Increased understanding of energy reduction technologies and management practices for energy cost savings and GHG emission reductions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Feasibility study, case study, podcast, newsletter articles. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Low Emissions Intensity Cotton Farming Systems (LIEFS NSW) (DAN 11402 Aaron Simmons NSW DPIRD Oct 24–Jun 28) [H,A,R,D] » Low Emissions Intensity Cotton Farming Systems (LEIFS Qld) (Paul Grundy Qld DPI) |

| Technical Data | Outcomes | Outputs | Relevant research projects (Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate) |
|--|---|--|---|
| Enhanced Efficient Fertiliser (EEF) trials | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Increase grower understanding and adoption of the types of EEFs and the 4Rs. » Increase grower understanding of how the use of EEFs can improve NUE and reduce GHG emissions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Four EEF trials in collaboration with LEIFS (Low Emission Intensity Farming Systems Project). » Farm walks » Trials results included in soil and nutrition workshops | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Low Emissions Intensity Cotton Farming Systems (LIEFS NSW) (DAN 11402 Aaron Simmons NSW DPIRD Oct 24-Jun 28) HARD » Future Cotton: Innovation and impact for sustainability, biosecurity & growth (DAQ11744 Paul Grundy Qld DPI May 25-Jun 29) HAR » Climate-smart agriculture: Reducing nitrous oxide emissions with enhanced efficiency fertilisers (QUT11399 Peter Grace QUT Nov 24-June 28) » Co-development of an enhanced efficiency fertiliser (EFF) evaluation framework (ZNECRC11676 Vicki Lane ZNECRC Jan 25-June 26) A |
| Carbon benchmarking workshops | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Industry knowledge of soil carbon is benchmarked. » Growers and consultants learn the causal factors of carbon variability through their valleys and the industry. » Growers and consultants improve their understanding of the influence of management practice on soil carbon levels. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Three workshops: Namoi, Gwydir and Macquarie where DAN2305 was carried out | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Benchmarking soil carbon, soil properties and management between long term experimental sites and on-farm cotton industry sites (DAN2305 NSW DPIRD Jul 22-Sep 25) HR » Low Emissions Intensity Cotton Farming Systems (LIEFS NSW) (DAN 11402 Aaron Simmons NSW DPIRD Oct 24-Jun 28) HARD » Future Cotton: Innovation and impact for sustainability, biosecurity & growth (DAQ11744 Paul Grundy Qld DPI May 25-Jun 29) HAR |
| Case study: Managing soil properties to unlock nutrition | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Importance of managing soil properties to increase nutrient availability is understood | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » One grower case study | |
| Macquarie red soils action group | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Improved knowledge of red soil management | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » One action group meeting – Macquarie | |
| On-farm trial: Investigating microbial activity using cotton strips | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Increased understanding of factors that impact microbial activity. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » One on farm trial in three regions | |



Priority area 2:

Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

» **HARD** Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate

| Technical Data | Outcomes | Outputs | Relevant research projects (Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate) |
|--|--|---|--|
| Bug checker workshops | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Upskill new bug checkers and provide resources to effectively monitor insect pressure. » Increase knowledge of insect identification, pests and beneficials, thresholds and sampling techniques. » Increase knowledge of crop physiology and indicators used to measure and monitor crops through key growth stages. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Four workshops across cotton regions. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Future Cotton: Innovation and impact for sustainability, biosecurity & growth (DAQ11744 Paul Grundy Qld DPI May 25–Jun 29) [HAR] |
| IPM campaign | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Increase the adoption of IPM. » Reduce the use of early season insect spraying to manage retention. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » One IPM booklet: Early season insect management » Three IPM Case studies » Cotton compensation demonstrations across cotton regions » CSD CottonTracka and crop tool used as a demonstration in Central Qld, Gwydir and Macquarie. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Insecticide resistance monitoring to support biosecure cotton systems in an increasingly variable climate (Lisa Bird, NSW DPIRD July 25–June 28) [AR] » Supporting farming system adaptation to climate and biological threats (including CottonInfo technical leads Paul Grundy and Sharna Holman) (DAQ2201 Paul Grundy Qld DPI Jul 21–Jun 25) [ARD] |
| Insect collections for insecticide resistance testing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Growers adhering to the Insecticide Resistance Management Strategy (IRMS) to reduce insecticide resistance. » Increased grower and consultant awareness of IRMS. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Insect collections conducted in all cotton regions by CottonInfo REOs in collaboration with NSW DPIRD, Qld DPI and local agronomists. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Insecticide resistance monitoring to support biosecure cotton systems in an increasingly variable climate. (DAN 11621 Lisa Bird NSW DPIRD Jul 25–Jun-28) [HAR] » Future Cotton: Innovation and impact for sustainability, biosecurity & growth (DAQ11744 Paul Grundy May 25–Jun-29) [HAR] |

**Priority area 3:**

Disease management

» **[H,A,R,D]** Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate

| Technical Data | Outcomes | Outputs | Relevant research projects (Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate) |
|---|--|---|---|
| Disease identification and surveillance | » Increase grower and consultant awareness of how and why to monitor fields for cotton diseases – incidence and severity. | » Two CottonInfo newsletter articles » One updated CottonInfo video: Disease monitoring and sample submission (refreshed version) » Disease surveys conducted by REOs on 5+ fields per region | » The Australian Cotton Disease Collaboration (ACDC) (USQ11135 Sambasivam Periyannan USQ May 24–Jun 28) [A,R] |
| CottonInfo disease resources | » Improve grower and consultant knowledge of cotton diseases and their symptoms. » Increase adoption of recommended disease management practices. » Strengthen the link between research and farm practices. | » Six factsheets covering Fusarium wilt, Verticillium wilt, Reoccurring wilt, Alternaria, Blackroot rot, and boll rots. | » Future Cotton: Innovation and impact for sustainability, biosecurity & growth (DAQ11744 Paul Grundy Qld DPI May 25–Jun 29) [H,A,R] |
| On-farm disease trials | » Increased understanding of various management practices impacts on verticillium. | » Four on farm trials » Two field days » Trial reports and presentations | » Disease management in cotton farming systems – a participatory action research approach to deliver solutions (CSD2303 Michael Bange CSD Oct 22–Sep 26) [H,R,D] |
| Raising awareness of ACDC research projects | » Increase awareness and understanding of ACDC projects among growers and consultants. » Strengthen engagement between researchers and the cotton community. » Foster participation in trials, monitoring, and feedback loops. » Support broader uptake of research findings. | » One ACDC-focused webinar » Researcher/project profiles (10) developed for each ACDC project. » Participation in AWM meetings (one per valley) by ACDC disease researchers to present their projects and connect with growers. | » The Australian Cotton Disease Collaboration (ACDC) (USQ11135 Sambasivam Periyannan USQ May 24–Jun 28) [A,R] |

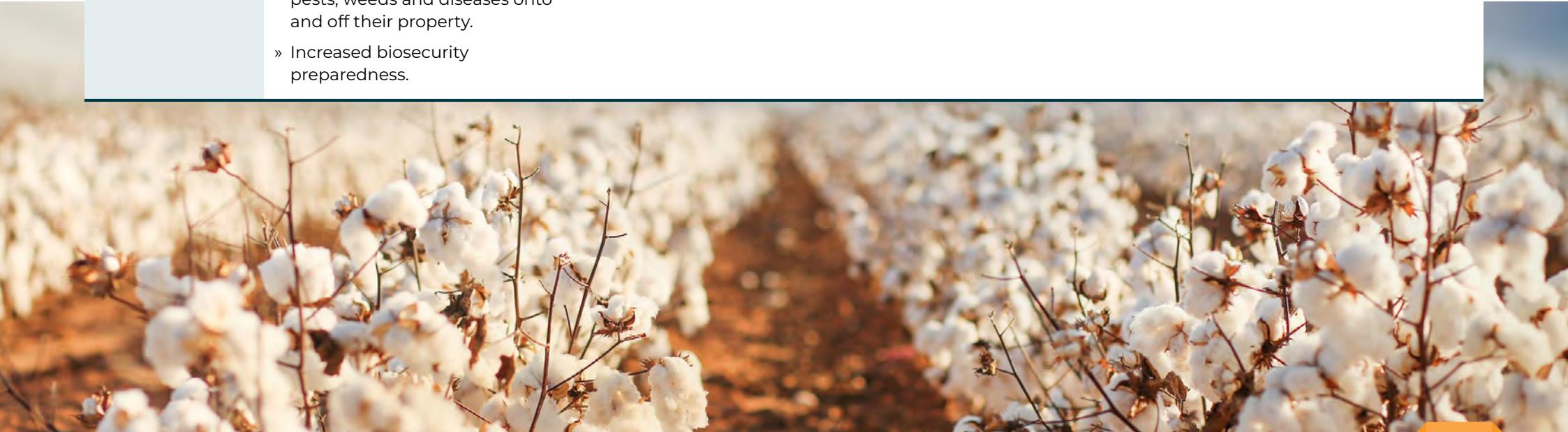


Priority area 4:

Biosecurity

» **[H.A.R.D]** Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate

| Technical Data | Outcomes | Outputs | Relevant research projects (Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate) |
|--|---|---|---|
| REOs participate in Industry Liaison Officer (ILO) training and biosecurity preparedness exercises. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » CottonInfo REO team is upskilled and has the capability to respond to biosecurity incursions and support the industry BIOSOP (Biosecurity Incident Standard Operating Procedure). | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » CottonInfo REOs attend biosecurity exercises and ILO training. | |
| On-farm biosecurity extension | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Increased understanding by growers of their biosecurity risks. » Adoption of practices that reduce the risk of spreading pests, weeds and diseases onto and off their property. » Increased biosecurity preparedness. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Two on-farm biosecurity workshops (Southern NSW and Southern Qld) » Three communication articles featuring grower case studies | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Future Cotton: Innovation and impact for sustainability, biosecurity & growth (DAQ11744 Paul Grundy Qld DPI May 25-Jun 29) [H.A.R] |



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Priority area 5:

Water use efficiency

» **[H.A.R.D]** Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate

| Technical Data | Outcomes | Outputs | Relevant research projects (Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate) |
|--|---|--|---|
| Head ditch talks | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Improve understanding of best practice water application for efficient irrigation. » Improve irrigators understanding of siphon placement and effect on flow rate. » Increase awareness of the irrigation toolbox series. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Three head-ditch talks (location based on region demand) » Irrigation toolbox series promoted in regional newsletters | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » On-farm demonstrating and integrating irrigation technology for cotton (USQ2301 Joseph Foley USQ Jul 22–Jun 25) [H.A.D] » Water productivity benchmarking in the Australian cotton Industry (DAN2303 Malem McLeod NSW DPIRD Jul 22–Jun 25) [H.D] |
| Irrigation automation field day | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » More growers benefiting from automation of irrigation and improved optimisation of events. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » One automation field day – Southern NSW | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Information resources siphonless systems & irrigation automation technologies [A.R] » Currently scoping a possible RD&E automation project for Southern NSW |
| On-farm trial: The role of skip-row systems in southern growing regions to deliver efficient and profitable irrigated cotton production | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » The aim of the trial is to see if cotton production can be maintained in low allocation years when surface water is short. Previous work has been done on semi irrigated double skip but not on a fully irrigated bankless layout. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » One on-farm trial with CSD collaboration | |



**Priority area 6:****Natural resource management (NRM)**» **[HARD]** Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate

| Technical Data | Outcomes | Outputs | Relevant research projects (Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate) |
|---|--|---|--|
| Capture and demonstrate tools for biodiversity monitoring. | » Increase grower awareness and adoption of tools used to monitor and manage biodiversity on farm. | » One field day presentation » Information sheet on key indicators and tools for monitoring biodiversity | » Impacts of landscape connectivity on bat and bird activity in cotton and value of acoustic monitoring technology: benefits for natural pest suppression. (USC10494 Stuart Parsons USC Jul 23–Jun 26) [HARD] » On-farm biodiversity monitoring tools scoping study (2rog 11195, Jeremy Simmonds, 2Rog Consulting, Aug 24–April 25) [R] |
| Carbon farming and biodiversity workshops | » Increase grower awareness and knowledge re carbon farming and monitoring on-farm biodiversity. » Equip growers with the knowledge and science to make sound decisions re carbon farming. » Help growers understand the value of their natural capital and impact on market access. | » Regen Mutual Farmers Pilot Project » Carbon workshops in all cotton regions » Presentation by Jon Welsh on crop rotation carbon case studies at DCRA Research Forum | » Macquarie Valley Landscape Impact Program (REGF 11614 Andrew Ward Regen Farmers Mutual Mar 25–Nov 25 [HAR] » Carbon and biodiversity benchmarking in native vegetation on cotton farms (UNE2301 Rhiannon Smith UNE Jan 23–Dec 25) [AR] » Seeking regionally specific guidelines for cover crops through cotton-farmer-led best-practice and soil security (US2301 Alex McBratney USYD Feb 23–Jan 26) [R] » Building profitable farming systems for the future through increasing soil organic carbon and optimising water use efficiency in a changing climate (CRDC2202 Annette McCaffery DCRA Jul 21–Sep 24) [R] » Carbon Farming Outreach Program: Integrated approaches to building on-farm emissions knowledge – gap analysis opportunity (DAN11681 Aaron Simmons, SUSA11675 Chris Cosgrove, AE1197 Jon Welsh, all May 25–Jan 26) [HA] |
| Riparian weed management workshops | » Provide growers knowledge and skill in riparian weed management. | » Four riparian weed management workshops: Namoi, Gwydir, Macintyre & St George | » Riparian exotic weed management prioritization framework, (GU11317 Sam Capon, Griffith University Oct 24–Oct 27) [HA] |
| Productivity impact and benefits of fish screens. | » Providing irrigators with information regarding the ROI of modern fish screens. | » One factsheet » One webinar » Field day in collaboration with NSW DPIRD | » Evaluating the economic and environmental ROI of modern fish screens (NSW DPIRD Jul 22–Jun 26) [AR] |

**Priority area 7:****Pesticide input efficiency (including weed management and spray drift prevention)**

| Technical Data | Outcomes | Outputs | Relevant research projects (Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate) |
|---|---|--|---|
| Northern Australia baseline weeds survey | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Assess weed trends and key species in Northern Australian cotton regions. » Identify potential residual herbicides that are less damaging to sensitive ecosystems. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Risk assessment of weeds and weed management systems in cotton in Northern Australia, with baseline and ongoing surveys. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Regional demonstration of integrated weed tactics across farming systems (DAN2304 Eric Koetz NSW DPIRD Jul 22–Dec 24) [R,D] » Quantifying the economic impact of weeds on the Australian grain and cotton cropping systems investment (GRDC10612 Emma Colson GRDC Jul 23–Jun 25) [A,R] |
| Extend updated Herbicide Resistance Management Strategy (HRMS) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Increase awareness and adoption of the HRMS | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » One fact sheet » One podcast | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Regional demonstration of integrated weed tactics across farming systems (DAN2304 Eric Koetz NSW DPIRD Jul 22–Jun 25) [R,D] |
| Weed seed collections | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Increased knowledge of weed resistance and integrated weed management. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Weed seed collected in all cotton valleys for resistance testing | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Herbicide resistance status of grain and cotton cropping regions (GRDC 11140 Sarah Morran GRDC July 24–Jun 27) |
| SOS spray drift campaign and WAND awareness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Encouraging adoption of best practice spray application » Supporting the continued awareness and adoption of the Weather and Networked Data (WAND) system | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Communications campaign in collaboration with SOS (Stop Off Target Spraying) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Pilot spray drift extension activities (CI 11705 CottonInfo/SOS/Spray Safe and Save May 25–Jan 26) » Spray drift hazard alert and warning systems (DISA2201 Discovery Ag Jan 22–Jun 28) [A] » WeedSmart Phase 6 (UWA10548 Jessica Strauss UWA Jul 23–Jun 26) [R] |



Other CottonInfo priorities:

Northern Australia

» **[HARD]** Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate

| Technical Data | Outcomes | Outputs | Relevant research projects (Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate) |
|---|---|--|---|
| Northern Australia Cotton Production Guide | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Growers and advisors are informed with best practice for cotton production in northern Australia. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Northern Australia Cotton Production Guide. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Future Cotton: Innovation and impact for sustainability, biosecurity & growth (DAQ11744 Paul Grundy Qld DPI May 25-Jun 29) [HAR] |
| Industry engagement activities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Agronomists and growers have greater understanding of how to use agronomic and pest management practice to best advantage in northern Australia. » Production outcomes are optimised for individual circumstances. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Farm visits to WA, NT and Far North Qld with agronomists for the purpose of crop inspection, problem solving and advice. » One workshop in each region to serve as a season debrief and latest research update. » Three webinars (climate, nitrogen management and canopy management) » Northern Australia newsletter | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Future Cotton: Innovation and impact for sustainability, biosecurity & growth (DAQ11744 Paul Grundy Qld DPI May 25-Jun 29) [HAR] |





Other CottonInfo priorities:

myBMP

» **[H.A.R.D.]** Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate

| Technical Data | Outcomes | Outputs | Relevant research projects (Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate) |
|--|---|---|--|
| CottonInfo is an active promoter of the myBMP program | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Increase grower awareness of the benefits of the myBMP program by engaging with CottonInfo. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Identify growers who have expressed an interest in myBMP. » Align CottonInfo messaging with relevant best practices in myBMP. » Promote benefits of myBMP program at CottonInfo events and via communications. » CottonInfo Technical Leads update the myBMP modules annually. | |
| Support Cotton Australia regional cotton events | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Cotton Australia Regional Managers supported by CottonInfo where required at regional cotton events to raise awareness of CRDC research, CottonInfo program and myBMP | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » CottonInfo representation at regional events, Teach the Teacher events, school career expos, Sydney Royal Easter Show and Royal Brisbane Show (Ekka). | |





Other CottonInfo priorities:

Fibre quality

» **H.A.R.D.** Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate

| Technical Data | Outcomes | Outputs | Relevant research projects (Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate) |
|---|---|---|--|
| Fibre quality and premium and discount (P&D) workshops | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Increased grower understanding and adoption of practices to improve fibre quality. » Increase awareness of contamination and impacts on fibre quality. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Three workshops: Darling Downs, Central Qld & Gwydir » Two fact sheets | |
| Trial colour differences after rainfall | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Investigate colour differences on rain impacted cotton at picking and impact of sunlight as a bleaching mechanism. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Two trials: St George, Namoi | |
| Field to fabric course – training for CottonInfo REOs | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Improve REO understanding of fibre quality, agronomic impacts and supply chain processes from ginning to spinning. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » One training field to fabric workshop | |



BEST
PRACTICE



Other CottonInfo priorities:

Ag tech

» **[HARD]** Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate

| Technical Data | Outcomes | Outputs | Relevant research projects (Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate) |
|--------------------------------|---|--|--|
| Ag tech regional tour | » Increased understanding of current use of technology, current and future needs, barriers to adoption, knowledge/skill/capacity gaps, existing service providers and planning needs. | » Scoping study report | » Future Cotton: Innovation and impact for sustainability, biosecurity & growth (DAQ11744 Paul Grundy Qld DPI May 25-Jun 29) [HARD] |
| Technology extension resources | » Increase knowledge and awareness of digital tools. | » Two fact sheets » Digital ag chapter in the Australian Cotton Production Manual | » Information resources siphonless systems & irrigation automation technologies [AR] |



BEST
PRACTICE



Other CottonInfo priorities:

'People' pillar investments

» **[H,A,R,D]** Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate

| Technical Data | Outcomes | Outputs | Relevant research projects (Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate) |
|---|--|--|---|
| Promoting cotton industry leadership opportunities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Increased awareness of CRDC and Cotton Australia leadership investments including Australian Future Cotton Leaders Program, Australian Rural Leadership Program, Trail and Nuffield | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Podcast featuring scholarship recipients » Promotion of programs through regional newsletters | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Nuffield Australia farming scholarship 2025: Kate Lumber [A,R] |
| CottonInfo support for activities associated with lifting research capacity | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Showcase the Australian cotton industry from field to fabric and foster connections between students | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Local support provided by REOs to the CRDC graduate tour » Hosting cotton Horizon scholar | |
| Work health and safety project awareness | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Increase grower awareness and participation where applicable in CRDC work health and safety investments including fatigue survey, regional wellbeing survey, non-technical skills development. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Articles in regional newsletters » Extension of fatigue survey results | |





Other CottonInfo activities:

» **[H.A.R.D]** Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate

| Technical Data | Outcomes | Outputs | Relevant research projects (Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate) |
|--|--|---|---|
| Cotton core essentials | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » To provide foundational cotton production training to growers and consultants to ensure the cotton basics are understood. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Cotton core essentials (Back to basics) training workshops developed for each of the CottonInfo technical areas, including soils, disease, IPM, fibre quality, weeds and plant physiology. » Back to basics regional newsletter articles | |
| Capturing emerging issues from industry to inform research priorities | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Growers and consultants agree they can effectively raise research gaps and opportunities. » These ideas are incorporated into R&D planning. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » New and relevant RD&E issues/gaps/ideas are captured and provided to CRDC Innovation Brokers. | |
| Cotton research update | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Greater grower awareness of CRDC investments into RD&E | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » One pilot research update meeting: Upper Namoi | |
| Area Wide Management (AWM) meetings | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Local growers and consultants feel supported by CottonInfo and receive the latest research and best management practices information. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Two-three cotton catch ups per region (where an REO is located) per year. | |
| Key CottonInfo communications | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Connect growers and consultants with the latest news, information, events and research. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » CottonInfo e-news & moisture manager, regional newsletters » CottonInfo videos, podcasts, website, social media, fact sheets, case studies, ACPM, CPMG. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> » Future Cotton: Innovation and impact for sustainability, biosecurity & growth (DAQ11744 Paul Grundy Qld DPI May 25–Jun 29) [H.A.R] |



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