



# **CottonInfo Annual Operational Plan**

**2026–27**

HELPING YOU GROW

## Contents

|                                          |    |
|------------------------------------------|----|
| About CottonInfo                         | 2  |
| The CottonInfo Annual Operational Plan   | 2  |
| The CottonInfo Team                      | 3  |
| CottonInfo's 2025-28 Strategic Goals     | 4  |
| Strategic Goal 1                         | 4  |
| Strategic Goal 2                         | 4  |
| Priority topics for extension 2026-27    | 5  |
| Priority regions for extension 2026-27   | 8  |
| Stakeholder engagement and communication | 9  |
| Program management                       | 9  |
| Monitoring and evaluation                | 10 |
| CRDC Strategic Plan re CottonInfo        | 10 |
| CottonInfo Strategic Plan goals          | 11 |
| Appendix 1: 2026-27 activity matrix      | 13 |



## 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.

CottonInfo is a joint venture between three cotton industry organisations: 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 2026–27 (AOP) is a companion document to the CottonInfo Strategic Plan 2025–28. It covers the period July 2026 to June 2027.

The purpose of the AOP is to:

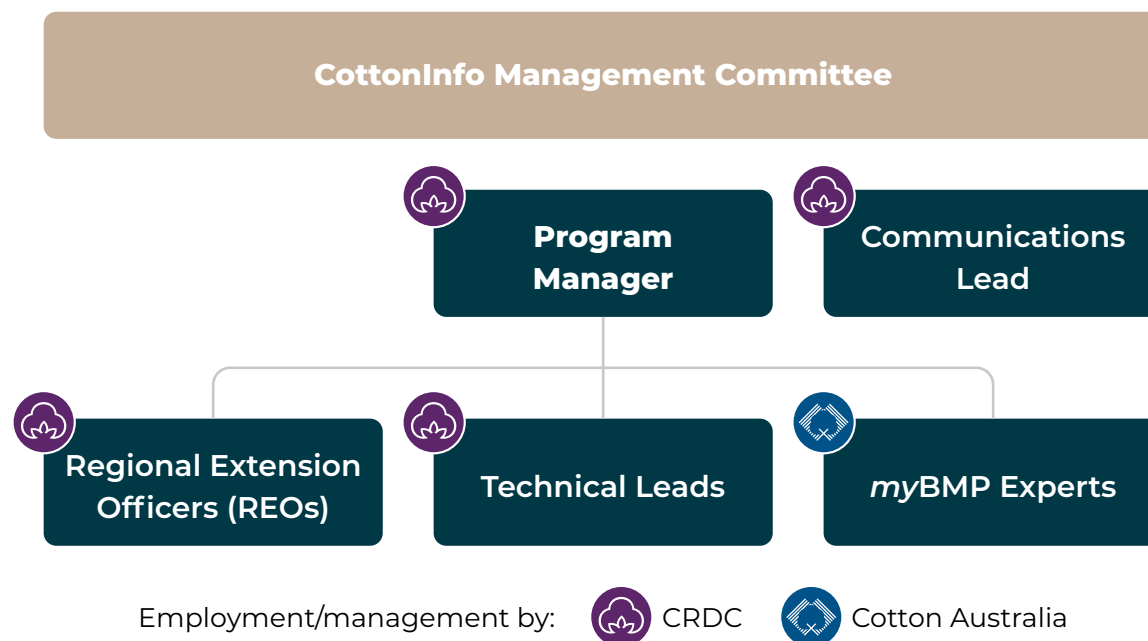
- » Outline CottonInfo's delivery against the Strategic Plan goals in this period.
- » Build on previous extension activities and consider opportunities or issues arising in the field.
- » Assess new CRDC-supported research projects for their extension requirements, in conjunction with the CRDC Innovation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

### CottonInfo Team Structure



## 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.



## Priority topics for extension 2026–27

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 2026–27, the priorities are:

**1. Disease Management:** Disease contributes to significant yield losses and undermines long-term confidence in growing cotton. For this reason, disease remains a top priority for CottonInfo. CottonInfo's disease extension program aligns with and supports the CRDC-led Australian Cotton Disease Collaboration (the ACDC), with a focus on building industry capacity, increasing awareness of disease risks and symptoms, and translating research into practical on-farm action.

Key activities include:

- Resource development and knowledge transfer: In 2026–27, CottonInfo is developing and refreshing written and video resources covering major diseases (Verticillium wilt, Fusarium wilt, Black Root Rot, Alternaria leaf spot and boll rots) for distribution through newsletters and social media.

- Field surveillance and diagnostics: CottonInfo REOs are collecting disease samples (25 samples per region in early and late season) to support a number of the ACDC research projects and build industry diagnostic capacity.
- Support and participate in disease forums: This includes the ACDC Industry Advisory Group, PATHCOM, and the ACDC Symposium to ensure extension aligns with emerging challenges.
- On-farm trials: CottonInfo will continue to deliver on-farm trials investigating management strategies for disease.



**2. On-farm experimentation (OFE):** CottonInfo is actively embedding on-farm experimentation (OFE) as a core extension approach across the program. The team will deliver and support OFE to test, adapt and scale grower and consultant driven research –building grower confidence, accelerating adoption and creating a two-way flow between research and practice.

Key activities include:

- OFE in supporting of the NSW DPIRD-led Future Drought Fund project *Long-term Drought Resilient Practices for Climate Smart Cropping Systems*: As a partner in this CRDC-supported project, CottonInfo will run 25 grower- and consultant-led on-farm trials over the next three seasons. An irrigation trial investigating limited water and end of season water management will be delivered by CottonInfo in each cotton region during the 2026–27 season. Other trials will focus on disease management, soil health and irrigation.

**3. Soil health, nutrition and carbon:** CottonInfo will support growers to improve their soil health and nutrition management, with a particular focus on nitrogen use efficiency in alignment with the CRDC Strategic Plan, the CRDC Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reduction Research Strategy, and cotton's PLANET. PEOPLE. Paddock. Sustainability Framework.

Key activities include:

- Showcasing emissions reduction technologies and practices: CottonInfo will deliver this in alignment with the Cotton Low Emissions Intensity Farming Systems (Cotton LEIFS) project, adapted by CRDC for the cotton industry from the Grains Research and Development Corporation (GRDC) LEIFS project.
- Delivering a soils training workshop for early career agronomists: Designed to build practical skills and confidence in soil assessment and interpretation, the workshop will integrate soil test interpretation, landscape understanding and soil core assessment. The content will be practical, accessible and readily applied in the field.



## CottonInfo will continue to support other key areas of the cotton production system including:

- **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 will focus on supporting growers in limited water scenarios to adopt practices that reduce losses in storage and transmission, and improve application efficiency.
- **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.
- **Fibre quality.** CottonInfo will support growers and consultants to better understand the factors and management practices that influence fibre quality through workshops and a new CottonInfo publication developed by industry experts: *A Comprehensive Guide to the Classification of Upland Cotton*.
- **Digital ag.** As the Australian cotton industry becomes increasingly reliant on agricultural technology, CottonInfo will play a key role in helping growers and consultants understand, assess and adopt relevant digital tools. CottonInfo will build on the 2025–26 scoping study to guide extension on priority topics: connectivity, digital data management, spatial data and remote sensing, artificial intelligence, automation, drone application, precision agriculture and barriers to adoption.

- **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.
- **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 2026–27 is ensuring preparedness by supporting growers to implement good biosecurity practices, ensuring the CottonInfo team are trained to respond in their role as Industry Liaison Officers under cotton's Biosecurity Incident Standard Operating Procedure (BISOP), and participating in the cotton industry's biosecurity simulation exercise: Exercise Common Thread.

- **Weeds and spray application.** CottonInfo will extend integrated weed management practices and technologies to growers and consultants, including supporting weed resistance testing and promoting the Herbicide Resistance Management Strategy (HRMS). CottonInfo will also continue to support industry efforts to minimise spray drift through proactive extension, including increasing awareness and adoption of SataCrop and Cotton Australia's Snap Send Solve app, and the CRDC, GRDC and Goanna Ag Weather and Networked Data (WAND) system.
- **Northern Australia.** Northern Australia is an emerging cotton region, with many growers, consultants and service providers still building experience in cotton systems. This creates a clear need for foundational extension, locally relevant RD&E and on-ground support. On-farm trials are essential to developing northern systems and building confidence. CottonInfo's newly appointed Northern REO will help connect growers, consultants, researchers and the wider industry to coordinate RD&E, align efforts and ensure extension of research to growers.



## Priority regions for extension 2026–27

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

Through its team of REOs, CottonInfo maintains a physical presence across eight cotton-growing regions in four states: Northern Australia (WA and NT), Central Queensland, Border Rivers/St George/Dirranbandi (Qld), Darling Downs (Qld), Gwydir Valley (NSW), Namoi Valley (NSW), Macquarie Valley (NSW), and Southern NSW.



## 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 three times per year to discuss strategic matters. CottonInfo, CRDC and CSD also meet regularly 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 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 support the CottonInfo Strategic Plan. The Communications 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 (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 2026–27 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. | » Percentage of growers actively contributing to RD&E adaptation through regional trials and data collection. Percentage of growers actively engaged with RD&E programs. | » 10 per cent of growers are involved in increasing utility and adaptation of research outcomes through trials and data collection. |
|                                                                                     |                                                                    | » Percentage of growers recognise that CRDC and CottonInfo have contributed to improving their productivity and sustainability.                                          | » 90 per cent of growers recognise that CRDC and CottonInfo have contributed to their productivity and sustainability.              |

## CottonInfo Strategic Plan goals



### Strategic Goal 1:

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



| 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.<br>» The percentage of these ideas that are incorporated into R&D planning. | » An increase in the number of RD&E 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.<br>» 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: 2026–27 Activity Matrix

This activity matrix outlines the CottonInfo activities for 2026–27, 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

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



## Priority area 1:

## Disease management

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

| Technical Data                                                                                                             | Outcomes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       | Outputs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | Relevant research projects<br>(Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate)                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Raising awareness of the Australian Cotton Disease Collaboration (the ACDC), and the ACDC researchers and projects.</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Increase awareness and understanding of the ACDC projects among growers and consultants.</li> <li>» Strengthen engagement between the ACDC researchers and the industry.</li> <li>» Foster participation in trials, monitoring and feedback loops.</li> <li>» Support broader uptake of research findings.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Participation of the ACDC researchers in area-wide management meetings (one per cotton region) or other appropriate regional events to present their projects and connect with growers and consultants.</li> <li>» Support and participate in disease focused forums including the ACDC Industry Advisory Group, PATHCOM, and the ACDC Symposium.</li> <li>» CottonInfo Disease Quarterly Newsletter.</li> <li>» Three podcasts related to the ACDC projects.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» The Australian Cotton Disease Collaboration (the ACDC) (USQ11135 Sambasivam Periyannan USQ May 24–Jun 28) <b>[HARD]</b></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                     |
| <b>Disease identification and surveillance</b>                                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Increase grower and consultant awareness of how and why to monitor fields for cotton diseases – incidence and severity.</li> <li>» Increased numbers of samples for the ACDC projects.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Two CottonInfo newsletter articles.</li> <li>» Collection of 25 cotton disease samples per REO in the early season and 25 samples in the late season.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» The Australian Cotton Disease Collaboration (the ACDC) (USQ11135 Sambasivam Periyannan USQ May 24–Jun 28) <b>[HARD]</b></li> <li>» The plant samples directly help the ACDC projects A2.1 + A3.1 + B1.2, which feed samples into B1.1 + B1.3 + B1.4 + B3.1.</li> </ul> |



| Technical Data                      | Outcomes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Outputs                                                                                                                                         | Relevant research projects<br>(Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>CottonInfo disease resources</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Improve grower and consultant knowledge of cotton diseases and their symptoms.</li> <li>» Increase adoption of recommended disease management practices.</li> <li>» Strengthen the link between research and farm practices.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Three factsheets covering Reoccurring wilt, Alternaria, Black Root Rot, and/or boll rots.</li> </ul>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Future Cotton: Innovation and impact for sustainability, biosecurity &amp; growth (DAQ11744 Paul Grundy Qld DPI May 25–Jun 29) <b>[HAR]</b></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>On-farm disease trials</b>       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Increased understanding of various management practices impacts on Verticillium wilt and Black Root Rot.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Four on farm trials.</li> <li>» Two field days.</li> <li>» Trial reports and presentations.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» FDF Grant: Long-term Drought Resilient Practices for Climate Smart Cropping Systems (DAN11790 Guna Nachimuthu June 2025–June 2030) <b>[HARD]</b></li> <li>» Disease management in cotton farming systems – a participatory action research approach to deliver solutions (CSD2303 Michael Bange CSD Oct 22–Sep 26) <b>[HR]</b></li> <li>» PhD: Harnessing plant-microbial interactions to improve cotton soil health and disease management, WSU 11815 Aqsa Hafeez, WSU July 2025 – June 2028.</li> </ul> |





## Priority area 2: Soil health, nutrition and carbon

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

| Technical Data                             | Outcomes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Outputs                                                                                                          | Relevant research projects<br>(Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|--------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Nutrition and soil health workshops</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Improved management of N fertiliser and a reduction in the excessive application of N.</li> <li>» Increased awareness of the soil as a living ecosystem (aligned with PLANET. PEOPLE. Paddock Sustainability Framework).</li> <li>» Higher uptake of enhanced efficiency fertiliser for better N efficiency.</li> <li>» Increased awareness of irrigation management influence on nutrient efficiency (the fifth R for N tactics).</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Two nutrition and soil health workshops: Walgett and Murgon.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» 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) <b>[AR]</b></li> <li>» Understanding nitrogen (N) cycling in cotton soils, and the timing of N availability to plant roots (CSIRO10081 Dio Antille CSIRO Oct 23–Sep 26) <b>[R]</b></li> <li>» De-risking N decision making: Insuring against yield loss through N fertiliser reduction (CSIRO10999 Peter Thorburn CSIRO Apr 24–Feb 27) <b>[H]</b></li> <li>» 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) <b>[R]</b></li> <li>» PhD: Crop rotation as a tool to ameliorate soil compaction in modern cotton farming systems. (DAN10920 Blake Palmer NSW DPIRD Jul 23–Jun 27) <b>[ARD]</b></li> <li>» Low Emissions Intensity Cotton Farming Systems (LIEFS NSW) (DAN 11402 Aaron Simmons NSW DPIRD Oct 24–Jun 28) <b>[HARD]</b></li> <li>» Future Cotton: Innovation and impact for sustainability, biosecurity &amp; growth (DAQ11744 Paul Grundy May 25–Jun 29) <b>[HAR]</b></li> <li>» Assessing the critical N and P values of cotton cultivars for improved yield and fertiliser efficiency (UQ2301 Tim McLaren UQ Jul 22–Jun 25) <b>[AR]</b></li> <li>» Future Drought Fund Grant: Long-term drought resilient practices for climate-smart cropping systems (DAN11790 Guna Nachimuthu NSW DPIRD May 2025–June 2030) <b>[HARD]</b></li> <li>» Reducing the economic impact of compaction (CSIRO 12075 Diogenes Antille Feb-26–Jun-29) <b>[A]</b></li> <li>» Assessing soil nutrient depletion risks in Australian cotton farming systems (GU 12458 Yunying Fang Apr-26–Oct-26) <b>[HAR]</b></li> <li>» Dryland cotton nutrition via subsoil placement (US 11057 Stephen Cattle Jul-25–Jun-28) <b>[AR]</b></li> <li>» PhD: Steering soil biology to reduce nitrous oxide emission via increasing nutrient use efficiencies, (WSU 11816 Ram Chandra Shrestha, WSU, July 2025 – June 2028) <b>[A]</b></li> <li>» Masters: Novel amendments and fertilisers for climate-smart cotton cropping systems (SCU 12580 Luis Paulo Tomaz Ratke Feb-26–Feb-29) <b>[AR]</b></li> </ul> |



| Technical Data                                                             | Outcomes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Outputs                                                                                   | Relevant research projects<br>(Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Soils basic skills training</b>                                         | » Cotton industry stakeholders providing soil advice (including nutrient budgets) will have an informed understanding of soil function.                                                                                                                                                         | » One soil workshop for early career agronomists.                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Macquarie red soils action group</b>                                    | » Improved knowledge of red soil management.                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    | » One carbon benchmarking workshop<br>» One soil & nutrition workshop<br>» One case study |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Carbon benchmarking workshops</b>                                       | » Industry knowledge of soil carbon is benchmarked.<br>» Growers and consultants learn the causal factors of carbon variability through their valleys and the industry.<br>» Growers and consultants improve their understanding of the influence of management practice on soil carbon levels. | » Three workshops: Namoi, Gwydir and Macquarie (aligned with DAN2305).                    | » 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) <b>[H,R]</b><br>» Low Emissions Intensity Cotton Farming Systems (LIEFS NSW) (DAN 11402 Aaron Simmons NSW DPIRD Oct 24–Jun 28) <b>[HARD]</b><br>» GHG emissions and removals accounting for the Australian cotton sector (ANU 12479 Aaron Simmons Jan-26–Jun-28) <b>[A]</b><br>» Future Cotton: Innovation and impact for sustainability, biosecurity & growth (DAQ11744 Paul Grundy Qld DPI May 25–Jun 29) <b>[HAR]</b> |
| <b>On-farm trial: Investigating microbial activity using cotton strips</b> | » Increased understanding of factors that impact microbial activity.                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | » One on farm trial across three regions to compare two soil treatments.                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |

| Technical Data                                       | Outcomes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Outputs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Relevant research projects<br>(Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Enhanced Efficient Fertiliser (EEF) trials</b>    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Increase grower understanding and adoption of the types of EEFs and the 4Rs.</li> <li>» Increase grower understanding of how the use of EEFs can improve NUE and reduce GHG emissions.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Four EEF trials in collaboration with LEIFS.</li> <li>» Farm walks</li> <li>» Trials results included in soil and nutrition workshops</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Low Emissions Intensity Cotton Farming Systems (LIEFS NSW) (DAN 11402 Aaron Simmons NSW DPIRD Oct 24–Jun 28) <b>[HARD]</b></li> <li>» Future Cotton: Innovation and impact for sustainability, biosecurity &amp; growth (DAQ11744 Paul Grundy Qld DPI May 25–Jun 29) <b>[HAR]</b></li> <li>» Climate-smart agriculture: Reducing nitrous oxide emissions with enhanced efficiency fertilisers (QUT11399 Peter Grace QUT Nov 24–June 28)</li> <li>» Co-development of an enhanced efficiency fertiliser (EFF) evaluation framework (ZNECRC11676 Vicki Lane ZNECRC Jan 25–June 26) <b>[A]</b></li> </ul> |
| <b>Northern Australia soils case study</b>           | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» The importance of managing soil properties to increase nutrient availability is understood.</li> </ul>                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» One grower case study leading to a factsheet or Spotlight article and CottonInfo video.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Update and develop new nutrition video series</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Increase understanding and skills in cotton nutrition management.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Four videos covering:               <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Interpretation of soil tests</li> <li>2. Preparing a nitrogen budget</li> <li>3. Inhibitors &amp; how they work</li> <li>4. Managing N, P, K Zn and micronutrient management.</li> </ol> </li> </ul> |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

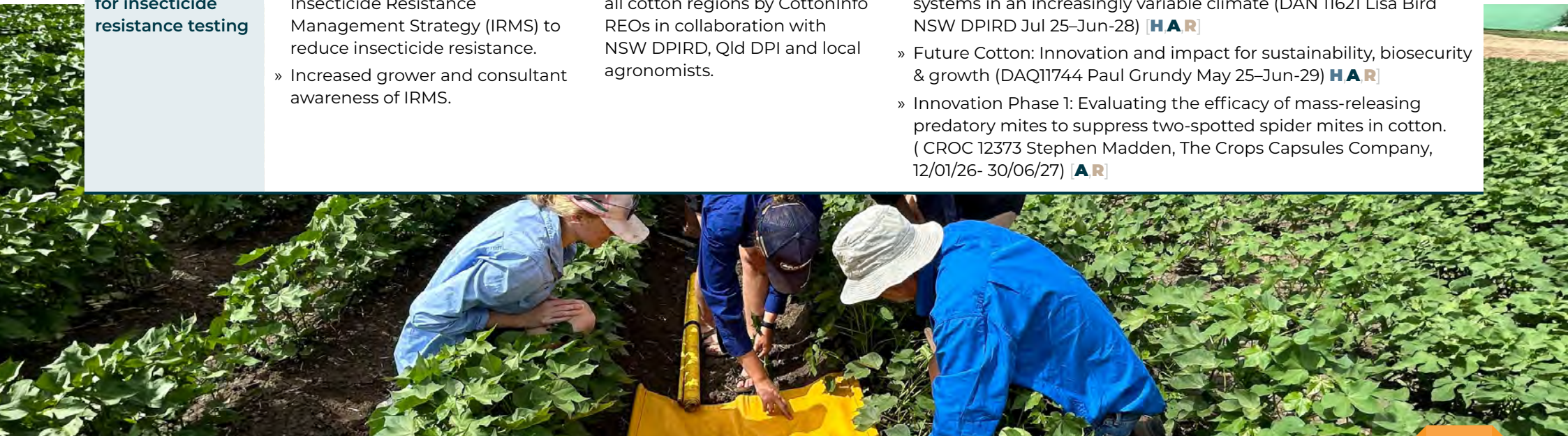


### Priority area 3:

### Integrated Pest Management (IPM)

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

| Technical Data                                               | Outcomes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | Outputs                                                                                                                                                                                   | Relevant research projects<br>(Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Bug checker workshops</b>                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Upskill new bug checkers and provide resources to effectively monitor insect pressure.</li> <li>» Increase knowledge of insect identification, pests and beneficials, thresholds and sampling techniques.</li> <li>» Increase knowledge of crop physiology and indicators used to measure and monitor crops through key growth stages.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Four workshops across cotton regions.</li> </ul>                                                                                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Future Cotton: Innovation and impact for sustainability, biosecurity &amp; growth (DAQ11744 Paul Grundy Qld DPI May 25–Jun 29) <b>[HAR]</b></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <b>Insect collections for insecticide resistance testing</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Growers adhering to the Insecticide Resistance Management Strategy (IRMS) to reduce insecticide resistance.</li> <li>» Increased grower and consultant awareness of IRMS.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Insect collections conducted in all cotton regions by CottonInfo REOs in collaboration with NSW DPIRD, Qld DPI and local agronomists.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Insecticide resistance monitoring to support biosecure cotton systems in an increasingly variable climate (DAN 11621 Lisa Bird NSW DPIRD Jul 25–Jun-28) <b>[HAR]</b></li> <li>» Future Cotton: Innovation and impact for sustainability, biosecurity &amp; growth (DAQ11744 Paul Grundy May 25–Jun-29) <b>[HAR]</b></li> <li>» Innovation Phase 1: Evaluating the efficacy of mass-releasing predatory mites to suppress two-spotted spider mites in cotton. ( CROC 12373 Stephen Madden, The Crops Capsules Company, 12/01/26- 30/06/27) <b>[AR]</b></li> </ul> |





## Priority area 4:

## Biosecurity

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

| Technical Data                                                                                     | Outcomes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Outputs                                                                                                                           | Relevant research projects<br>(Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate) |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| REOs participate in Industry Liaison Officer (ILO) training and biosecurity preparedness exercises | » CottonInfo REO team is upskilled and has the capability to respond to biosecurity incursions and support the industry BIOSOP (Biosecurity Incident Standard Operating Procedure).                                                                             | » CottonInfo REOs attend biosecurity exercises and ILO training.                                                                  |                                                                                                    |
| Assisting with the cotton industry's biosecurity simulation exercise                               | » Improved industry preparedness and response capability, increased awareness of biosecurity processes and roles (KASAP), and identification of strengths, weaknesses, threats, and opportunities within current systems.                                       | » Assistance with one simulation activity lead by Cotton Australia.<br>» Promotion of activity in CottonInfo regional newsletters |                                                                                                    |
| Extension of international biosecurity insights to improve industry preparedness                   | » Increased awareness of high-priority exotic pests and diseases relevant to Australian cotton systems.<br>» Improved understanding of biosecurity risks and preparedness strategies, and strengthened extension messaging informed by international learnings. | » Development of extension resources to communicate key insights.                                                                 |                                                                                                    |



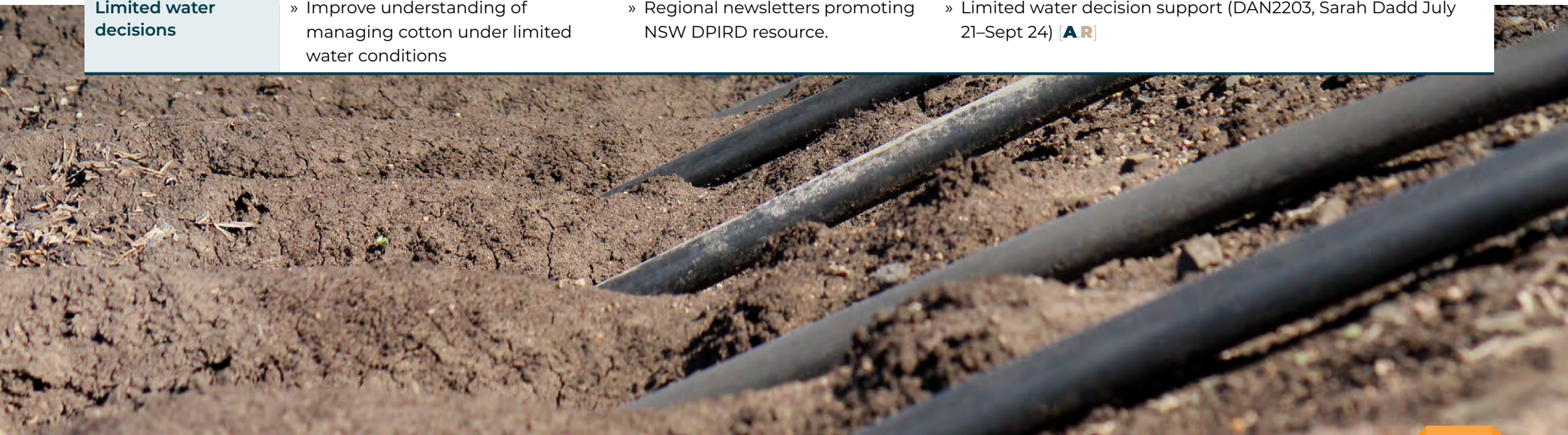


## Priority area 5:

## Water use efficiency

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

| Technical Data                                        | Outcomes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Outputs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 | Relevant research projects<br>(Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Head ditch talks</b>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Improve understanding of best practice water application for efficient irrigation.</li> <li>» Improve irrigators understanding of siphon placement and effect on flow rate.</li> <li>» Increase awareness of the irrigation toolbox series.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Three head-ditch talks (location based on region demand)</li> <li>» Irrigation toolbox series promoted in regional newsletters</li> <li>» Smarter Irrigation for Profit website promoted as a resource for growers.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» On-farm demonstrating and integrating irrigation technology for cotton (USQ2301 Joseph Foley USQ Jul 22–Jun 25) <b>[HARD]</b></li> <li>» Water productivity benchmarking in the Australian cotton Industry (DAN2303 Malem McLeod NSW DPIRD Jul 22–Jun 25) <b>[HA]</b></li> <li>» Beyond the baseline: robust water-quality assessments in selected cotton growing regions (ANSTO 12303 Dioni I. Cendon Jun-26–Nov-29) <b>[HAR]</b></li> </ul> |
| <b>Siphonless irrigation and automation resources</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Build grower understanding and practical skills in siphonless irrigation systems and automation.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» New siphonless and automation resources: fact sheets, case studies, webinar, podcast.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Information resources siphonless systems &amp; irrigation automation technologies (SYNA 11759 Matt Champness, Sep 2025–30 June 2026) <b>[HAR]</b></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Limited water decisions</b>                        | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Improve understanding of managing cotton under limited water conditions</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                     | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Regional newsletters promoting NSW DPIRD resource.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Limited water decision support (DAN2203, Sarah Dadd July 21–Sept 24) <b>[AR]</b></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |



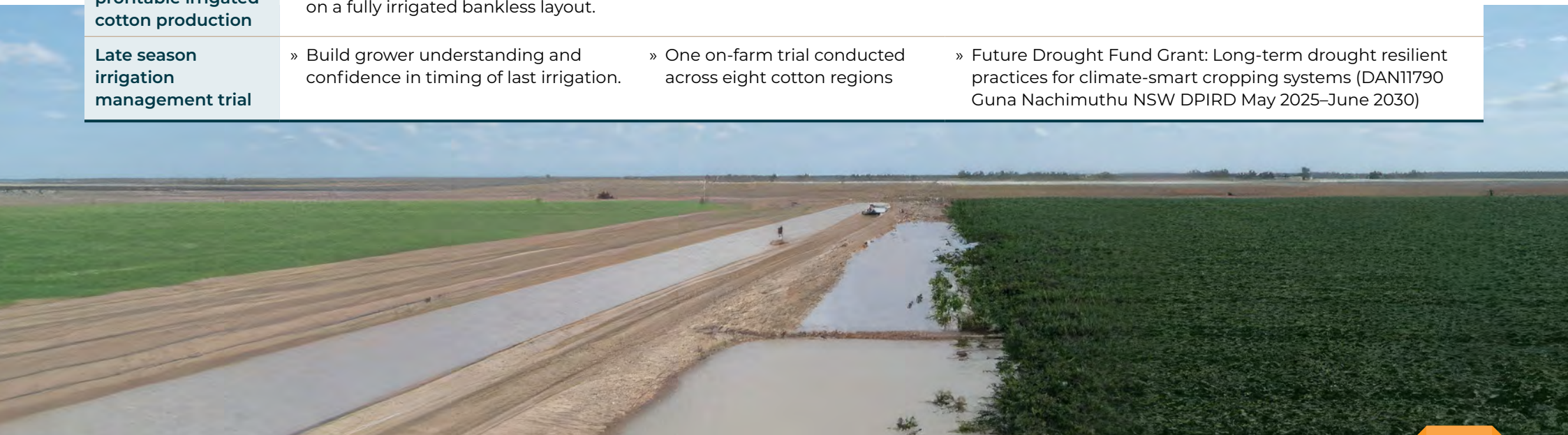


## Priority area 5:

## Water use efficiency

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

| Technical Data                                                                                                                                 | Outcomes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Outputs                                                                                                                                                                           | Relevant research projects<br>(Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>NEESTI solar evaporation project awareness</b>                                                                                              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Increase awareness of this project which aims to: reduce evaporation losses, generate renewable energy, which can offset farm energy use or create new income streams.</li> </ul>                                                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Integrate NEESTI findings into extension activities</li> <li>» AWM meetings, regional newsletter articles, researcher profile</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Novel Energy and evaporative storage technologies for irrigators (Jon Welsh 2025–2030). <b>[H.A]</b></li> <li>» Smart system for evaporation polymer deployment (USQ 10698 Michael Scobie Jun-24–May-28) <b>[A.R]</b></li> <li>» Optimising floating solar covers for evaporation mitigation (USQ 11136 Michael Scobie Sep-24–Aug-26) <b>[A.R]</b></li> </ul> |
| <b>On-farm trial: The role of skip-row systems in southern growing regions to deliver efficient and profitable irrigated cotton production</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» 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.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» One on-farm trial with CSD collaboration</li> </ul>                                                                                      | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Understanding the water balance of siphon less Irrigation systems in Southern NSW (DU 12551 John Hornbuckle Mar-26–Sep-28) <b>[A]</b></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Late season irrigation management trial</b>                                                                                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Build grower understanding and confidence in timing of last irrigation.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» One on-farm trial conducted across eight cotton regions</li> </ul>                                                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Future Drought Fund Grant: Long-term drought resilient practices for climate-smart cropping systems (DAN11790 Guna Nachimuthu NSW DPIRD May 2025–June 2030)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                        |





## Priority area 6: Natural resource management (NRM)

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

| Technical Data                                                                                                        | Outcomes                                                                                                                                                                                                    | Outputs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Relevant research projects<br>(Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Triaging riparian weed management –stakeholder engagement</b>                                                      | » Improve growers knowledge and skill in riparian weed management.                                                                                                                                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» CottonInfo to provide ongoing support for the implementation of the stakeholder engagement plan for project GU11317 in the northern Murray Darling Basin.</li> <li>» Encourage growers to visit Griffith University Cotton Conference Stand to provide feedback on the framework.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Riparian exotic weed management prioritization framework, (GU11317 Sam Capon, Griffith University Oct 24–Oct 27) <b>HA</b></li> <li>» Understanding the environmental co-benefits of irrigation water in the northern Murray-Darling Basin, Griffith University (GU11317, Professor Sam Capon) <b>HAR</b></li> </ul>       |
| <b>Extending the productivity impact and benefits of fish screens on pumps - case studies &amp; Cotton Conference</b> | » Increase irrigators understanding of the return on investment of modern fish screens.                                                                                                                     | » Promote the NSW DPIRD information resources and grower stories on the Fish Screens Australia Website, via Spotlight, e-news and Cotton Conference.                                                                                                                                                                                  | » Evaluating the economic and environmental ROI of modern fish screens (NSW DPIRD Jul 22–June 26) <b>AR</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>BMP of Northern Australia biodiversity assets</b>                                                                  | » Growers have improved access to tools, data and protocols for understanding what biodiversity is on farm and its general condition.                                                                       | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Update of CottonInfo Biodiversity Management Tool and myBMP resource material</li> <li>» Information sheet linked to CottonInfo Biodiversity Monitoring tool</li> <li>» Extension on Biodiversity tools, technology &amp; protocols for monitoring and reporting.</li> </ul>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Northern Territory biodiversity monitoring and management scoping project, ID: 2ROG 11822, 2ROG Jeremy Simmonds, July 2025- 30 June 2027 <b>AR</b></li> <li>» Benchmarking biodiversity assets in Northern Australia, ID: SQL11510, Andrew Davidson, completed December 2025. <b>AR</b></li> </ul>                         |
| <b>Valuing natural capital and capturing ecosystem services benefits</b>                                              | » To demonstrate to cotton growers and consultants that farm-level data collected for cotton industry sustainability metrics can be converted to natural capital valuation, among other uses for this data. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» REO support in November 2026 re grower and consultant feedback on draft project outputs.</li> <li>» Communication via Spotlight, e-news, webinar, Cotton Conference presentation.</li> </ul>                                                                                                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Northern Territory biodiversity monitoring and management scoping project, ID: 2ROG 11822, 2ROG Jeremy Simmonds, July 2025- 30 June 2027 <b>AR</b></li> <li>» Valuing natural capital to support on-farm decision making Pilot., IDIFPL12603, Integrated Futures Sue Ogilvy April 2026-December 2026 <b>HAR</b></li> </ul> |



## Priority area 7:

## Fibre quality

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

| Technical Data                                        | Outcomes                                                                                                                                                    | Outputs                                                                                     | Relevant research projects<br>(Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate)                                        |
|-------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Promote Cotton Classification Guide                   | » Increase cotton growers understanding of fibre quality, classing and measurement.                                                                         | » Extension of Cotton Classification Guide via regional newsletters, podcasts, fact sheets. |                                                                                                                                           |
| Fibre quality workshops                               | » Increased grower understanding and adoption of practices to improve fibre quality.<br>» Increase awareness of contamination and impacts on fibre quality. | » Three workshops in Central Qld, WA & Gwydir NSW.                                          | » Cotton Fibre Quality: Mapping Grower-Driven Opportunities for Impact and Investment (RMIT 11861 Saniyat Islam Mar-26–Sep-26) <b>[H]</b> |
| Field to fabric course – training for CottonInfo REOs | » Improve REO understanding of fibre quality, agronomic impacts and supply chain processes (ginning to spinning).                                           | » One field to fabric training workshop.                                                    |                                                                                                                                           |
| Contamination                                         | » Improve understanding of growers on how contamination can be reduced.                                                                                     | » Regional newsletter article promoting the CottonInfo contamination factsheet.             |                                                                                                                                           |
| Staging modules to assist ginning                     | » Increased grower understanding of the benefits of staging modules on farm in order of harvest and transport of those modules.                             | » Extension via video and regional newsletters.                                             |                                                                                                                                           |





## Priority area 8:

## Ag tech

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

| Technical Data                                                 | Outcomes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Outputs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | Relevant research projects<br>(Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Support delivery of CRDC Cotton Course micro-credential</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Improved capability and confidence of growers and industry participants in managing and using data within cotton systems.</li> <li>» Increased understanding of practical applications of digital and data technologies.</li> <li>» Reduced barriers to data and technology adoption through clearer decision pathways and real-world examples.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Delivery of face to face training sessions within the CRDC Cotton Course microcredential course, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>› Fundamentals of data and applications</li> <li>› Overcoming barriers to adoption</li> </ul> </li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Future Cotton: Innovation and impact for sustainability, biosecurity &amp; growth (DAQ11744 Paul Grundy Qld DPI May 25–Jun 29) <b>[HAR]</b></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>Technology extension resources</b>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Increase knowledge and awareness of digital agriculture.</li> <li>» Provide resources for use in future extension activities.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Extension materials covering connectivity, digital data management, spatial data and remote sensing, artificial intelligence, automation, drone application, precision agriculture and barriers to agtech adoption.</li> </ul>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Information resources siphonless systems &amp; irrigation automation technologies, Champass <b>[AR]</b></li> <li>» Future Cotton: Innovation and impact for sustainability, biosecurity &amp; growth (DAQ11744 Paul Grundy Qld DPI May 25–Jun 29) <b>[HAR]</b></li> <li>» PhD: Exploring smart farming technologies' impact on youths' perspectives towards the agri-food sector (UM 10799 Yuchen Miao, UM Oct 2023 – Oct 2026) <b>[H]</b></li> </ul> |



## Other CottonInfo priorities:

## Northern Australia

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

| Technical Data                                                                      | Outcomes                                                                                                                                                   | Outputs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            | Relevant research projects<br>(Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Tropical agronomy and IPM 101</b>                                                | » Increased knowledge and skills in tropical cotton agronomy.                                                                                              | » One workshop in WA (Ord)<br>» One workshop NT to be scoped.                                                                                                                                                                                                      | » Future Cotton: Innovation and impact for sustainability, biosecurity & growth (DAQ11744 Paul Grundy Qld DPI May 25–Jun 29) <b>[HAR]</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Direct engagement with agronomists in Northern Australia for tailored advice</b> | » Strengthened direct communication and connection between industry, growers and consultants to improve the exchange of knowledge and information.         | » Fortnightly crop check with the agronomists and consultants.<br>» Monthly newsletters and fact sheets for feedback from team leads to growers.<br>» Farm visits<br>» Conduct field walks in conjunction with other researchers and growers leading demonstration | » Future Cotton: Innovation and impact for sustainability, biosecurity & growth (DAQ11744 Paul Grundy Qld DPI May 25–Jun 29) <b>[HAR]</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Season review for NT and WA (Ord)</b>                                            | » Improve understanding of seasonal outcomes in relation to abiotic and biotic factors, share new information, and identify emerging issues and R&D needs. | » One seasonal review meeting in WA (Ord)<br>» One season review meeting in NT                                                                                                                                                                                     | » Future Cotton: Innovation and impact for sustainability, biosecurity & growth (DAQ11744 Paul Grundy Qld DPI May 25–Jun 29) <b>[HAR]</b><br>» PhD: Strategies to mitigate high soil temperature stress in cotton: Impacts on seedling growth, establishment, and soil health, Md Saidur Rahman, CDU April 2025 – April 2028 <b>[AR]</b><br>» PhD: Remote sensing of cotton stubble regrowth: Pest survival and management implications, (CDU 11748, Pablo Arriaga Velasco Aceves, CDU, May 2025 – May 2028. <b>[A]</b><br>» Delivering resilient cotton farming systems in the Northern Territory by addressing major limitations to production (CSIRO 12308 Tiemen Rhebergen Jan-26–Jun-28) <b>[HAR]</b><br>» Honours: Enhancing the resilience of the Northern Territory's rain-fed cotton; a comprehensive approach to yield prediction and water management (CDU 12066 Jyothi Bhandari Jan-26–Jan-27) <b>[A]</b><br>» Extension & adoption of drought resilient tropical farming systems through best management practice (BMP) (NTF 10747 Hannah Leu Jul-23–Sep-25) <b>[AR]</b> |





## Other CottonInfo priorities:

## Pesticide input efficiency (including weed management and spray drift prevention)

| Technical Data                                                               | Outcomes                                                                                                                                                       | Outputs                                                                                             | Relevant research projects<br>(Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate)                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Integrated Weed Management (IWM) practices and technologies supported</b> | » Increase grower and consultant understanding of IWM practices                                                                                                | » AWM meeting updates<br>» Regional Newsletter articles.                                            | » Regional demonstration of integrated weed tactics across farming systems (DAN2304 Eric Koetz NSW DPIRD Jul 22–Dec 24) <b>[R,D]</b><br>» Quantifying the economic impact of weeds on the Australian grain and cotton cropping systems investment (GRDC10612 Emma Colson GRDC Jul 23– Jun 25) <b>[A,R]</b> |
| <b>Extend updated Herbicide Resistance Management Strategy (HRMS)</b>        | » Increase awareness and adoption of the HRMS<br>» Increased understanding of resistance management strategies                                                 | » Extension via fact sheets and e-newsletter articles.                                              | » Regional demonstration of integrated weed tactics across farming systems (DAN2304 Eric Koetz NSW DPIRD Jul 22–Jun 25) <b>[R,D]</b>                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>Weed seed collections</b>                                                 | » Increased knowledge of weed resistance and integrated weed management.                                                                                       | » Weed seed collected in all cotton valleys for resistance testing                                  | » Herbicide resistance status of grain and cotton cropping regions (GRDC 11140 Sarah Morran GRDC July 24–Jun 27. <b>[A]</b>                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>SOS spray drift campaign and WAND awareness</b>                           | » Encouraging adoption of best practice spray application<br>» Supporting the continued awareness and adoption of the Weather and Networked Data (WAND) system | » Communications campaign in collaboration with Cotton Australia and SOS (Stop Off Target Spraying) | » Spray drift hazard alert and warning systems (DISA2201 Discovery Ag Jan 22–Jun 28) <b>[A]</b><br>» WeedSmart Phase 6 (UWA10548 Jessica Strauss UWA Jul 23–Jun 26) <b>[R]</b>                                                                                                                             |



## Other CottonInfo priorities:

**myBMP**

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

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





## Other CottonInfo priorities:

## CRDC Strategic Plan people pillar investments

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

| Technical Data                                                                     | Outcomes                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | Outputs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             | Relevant research projects<br>(Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Promoting cotton industry leadership opportunities</b>                          | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Increased awareness of CRDC and Cotton Australia leadership investments including Australian Future Cotton Leaders Program, Australian Rural Leadership Program, TRAIL and Nuffield, Summer Scholarships, honours and PhD Student</li> </ul>                                                                                                            | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Podcast featuring scholarship recipients</li> <li>» Promotion of programs through regional newsletters</li> <li>» Support the Horizons Scholars by providing work experience opportunities with the CottonInfo REOs, researchers or key industry organisations.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Nuffield Australia farming scholarship 2025: Kate Lumber <b>[AR]</b></li> <li>» Nuffield Australia scholarship 2026: Simon Blyth <b>[AR]</b></li> <li>» Horizon scholarship 2025-26: Emma Holme. RIRDC 11619 <b>[H]</b></li> <li>» Summer scholarship: Comparison of Spatial Soil Moisture Sensing Technologies, (USQ 11515 Isaac Halling, UniSQ <b>[H]</b>)</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>CottonInfo support for activities associated with lifting research capacity</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Showcase the Australian cotton industry from field to fabric and foster connections between students</li> <li>» Build the profile of new cotton researchers with growers and consultants and provide</li> <li>» Improve new cotton researchers understanding of the Australian Cotton Production system and on-farm decisions and practices.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Local support provided by REOs to the CRDC graduate tour</li> <li>» Supporting a minimum of three new Cotton Researchers and PhD students to get onto Cotton farms</li> <li>» Hosting cotton Horizon scholar</li> </ul>                                                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Graduate tour - Careers in cotton industry 2025 (CRDC 11633 Rachel Holloway, CRDC) <b>[H]</b></li> <li>» PhD: Establishing and quantifying a range of credentials of agricultural products, (US 11541 Daniel Irving Usyd) <b>[H]</b></li> <li>» Upskilling early career agriculturists GRDC 10696 Sally Dickinson</li> <li>» PhD: How to face the agricultural labour challenges: Applying the concept of job quality to the agricultural industry (UM 10810 Xinyue Tang, UM 01/10/23-01/10/26) <b>[H]</b></li> <li>» PhD: Exploring smart farming technologies' impact on youths' perspectives towards the agri-food sector (UM 10799 Yuchen Miao, UM 16/10/23-16/10/26) <b>[H]</b></li> </ul> |
| <b>Support for activities related to on-farm attraction and retention and WHS.</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Increase grower awareness and participation where applicable in CRDC SHIFT and WHS investments</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Extension via CottonInfo communications channels.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Rural safety and health alliance collaboration 2025-28, (RIRDC 11670 Ulicia Raufers, AgriFutures 01/07/25- 30/06/28) <b>[HA]</b></li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |



## Other CottonInfo priorities:

## Cotton Industry Sustainability Framework: PLANET. PEOPLE. Paddock

| Technical Data                                 | Outcomes                                                                                                                          | Outputs                                                                         | Relevant research projects<br>(Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate)                                                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Farming in a changing world – grower workshops | » Understanding perceptions of sustainability, gaps between grower and industry expectations, and priorities for RD&E investment. | » Six grower workshops<br>» Key workshop outcomes provided back to participants | » Sustainability Pulse: Pathways to Planet.People.Paddock CSIRO 12263 Katrina Szetey & Michelle Miller Jan 2026–Jan 2027 <b>[HAR]</b><br>» Support for the sustainability working group, industry sustainability reporting and integration of research into myBMP (SUSA 11185 Chris Cosgrove Jul-24–Jun-27) <b>[H]</b> |





## Other CottonInfo priorities:

## Other CottonInfo activities

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

| Technical Data                                                               | Outcomes                                                                                                                                                                                                     | Outputs                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | Relevant research projects<br>(Categorised as per H.A.R.D. Help, Awareness, Resource, Demonstrate)                                                                                              |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Capturing emerging issues from industry to inform research priorities</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Growers and consultants agree they can effectively raise research gaps and opportunities.</li> <li>» These ideas are incorporated into R&amp;D planning.</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» New and relevant RD&amp;E issues/ gaps/ideas are captured and provided to CRDC Innovation Brokers.</li> </ul>                                                                                         |                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Area Wide Management (AWM) meetings</b>                                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Local growers and consultants feel supported by CottonInfo and receive the latest research and best management practices information.</li> </ul>                    | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Two-three cotton catch ups per region (where an REO is located) per year.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Key CottonInfo communications</b>                                         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Connect growers and consultants with the latest news, information, events and research.</li> </ul>                                                                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» CottonInfo e-news &amp; moisture manager, regional newsletters</li> <li>» CottonInfo videos, podcasts, website, social media, fact sheets, case studies and key publications (ACPM, CPMG).</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>» Future Cotton: Innovation and impact for sustainability, biosecurity &amp; growth (DAQ11744 Paul Grundy Qld DPI May 25-Jun 29) <b>[HAR]</b></li> </ul> |





HELPING YOU GROW™