

The Cotton Industry Perspective

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Adoption of new technologies and advances in production systems has played a key part in the innovation of the Australian Cotton Industry. Through strong industry Research, Development and Extension new methods of farming are continually developed and implemented within farming systems. The Cotton Industries development of the Best Management Program (BMP) has been an integral tool in the advancement of the modern day cotton production system, both on and off farm.

Following are examples of work conducted within the cotton industry, both on farm and at the research level, which are related to the themes of this conference.

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS)

- Environmental management on a catchment scale
- Groundwater management and resource allocation
- Irrigation supply system assessment and monitoring
- Yield Mapping
- Elevation Mapping
- Soil Typing
- Drainage Mapping
- Variable rate applications of amendments and nutrients

GEOGRAPHIC POSITIONING SYSTEM (GPS)

- Accurate farm mapping for correct pesticide application
- Requirement of licensing for the use of transgenic varieties
- Tractor Guidance
- Precision soil sampling/tissue sampling
- Precision positioning of soil moisture monitoring equipment
- Irrigation Engineering survey, design and construction

CONTROLLED TRAFFIC

- Permanent beds
- Long fallows for moisture accumulation
- Decreased cost of production
- Decrease in compaction

PRECISION IRRIGATION

- Advances in farm and field design
- More formalised laser levelling
- Siphon flow rates matching set times
- Lateral move/Centre Pivot irrigation

SATELLITE IMAGERY

- Accurate resource maps
- Land use/catchment management
- Floodplain management

ROLE BY INDUSTRY

- Strong research, development and extension effort
- Knowledge management
- Industry Best Management Practices Program
- Vision for a more sustainable, profitable and competitive cotton industry, providing increased environmental, economic and social benefits to regional communities and the nation