

MEDIA RELEASE

Native Vegetation Assisting Pest Control

Conserving native vegetation in catchment landscapes and on farm may help reduce pests in cotton fields.

As part of the Cotton Catchment Communities CRC Healthy Cotton Catchments project, research examining the role of native vegetation and its direct impact on pest levels present in cotton fields, is underway.

The majority of farms support a diverse range of habitats suitable for native wildlife that benefits the environment and may benefit the sustainability of cotton production.

Felix Bianchi from CSIRO Entomology is the most recent addition to the project team. Felix brings a diverse range of skills to the project through his past experience in biological control, entomology landscapes and spatial ecology. He has relocated from the Netherlands to Brisbane, Queensland, for the duration of the 3 year project.

“The aim of the project is to improve the pest control potential of natural enemies in cotton fields, by increasing the presence of beneficial insects such as lady beetles which feed on pests ultimately reducing the number of natural enemies and potential pesticide used” said Felix.

Felix will be focusing predominantly on spatial modelling “Spatial aspects are extremely important, as we are attempting to understand how much native vegetation is needed, and what distances it needs to be at, to have a positive effect on pest control in cotton fields”. Felix said.

This work forms part of the larger Healthy Cotton Catchments project funded by Condamine CMA, Land & Water Australia, Queensland Murray Darling Committee and the Cotton CRC

Results of this project will contribute to catchment health, sustainable agricultural systems and reducing the application of agrochemicals.



Felix Bianchi – Ready to understand the interactions between cotton and native vegetation on farm.

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