

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **RECORD NUMBER OF COTTON SCHOLARS**

The Cotton CRC will host a record number of The University of Sydney Summer Scholarship holders during the current season.

Each Summer Scholarship holder will be employed full-time on a cotton industry research project on farms and within Cotton Catchment Communities CRC programs.

Cotton CRC chief executive, Guy Roth, said the aim of the Summer Scholarship program is to introduce students to the cotton industry and encourage their future participation in the industry when they complete their undergraduate and/or post-graduate studies.

“This year we have budgeted \$18,000 to support six University of Sydney students participate in research projects ranging from pesticide removal, nutrient loss, fertilizers, fungi, fibre quality and yields, to deep drainage, waterlogging tolerance and seedling protection.

“Co-operating organizations within the Cotton CRC include CSIRO Plant Industry, the Namoi Catchment Management Authority, and the NSW Department of Primary Industries,” Guy Roth said.

**Nicholas Duckmanton** will study nutrient loss from cotton fields in run-off and deep drainage; **Warren Conaty** will work on genetic tolerance to waterlogging; and **Endymion Cooper** will investigate the protection of cotton seedlings from *Thielaviopsis* by microbes.

**Mitchell Burns** will study sediment and pesticide removal from irrigation tailwater by sub-surface filtration; **Alicia Boyd** will pursue the interaction between genome types in AM fungi in colonization of cotton; and **Trent Fraser** will investigate the effect of phosphorus fertilizer applications on cotton yield and fibre quality, and arbuscular mycorrhizal fungi interaction with phosphorus and zinc uptake.

Guy Roth said an additional \$10,500 had been allocated to University of Queensland, and to Queensland DPI projects associated with developing diapause induction and moth emergence tools, and evaluation of habitat assessment tools.

The UQ project, to be completed by **James Duddy**, will examine phosphorous and potassium transport in reproductive parts of Bt cotton in furrow and overhead sprinkler systems.

Each Summer Scholarship holder will provide a special report to the Cotton CRC, with some also invited to provide verbal presentations to future CRC and industry research reviews and conferences.

Further information: Guy Roth 02 6799 1509 or 0417 223 179

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**Caption: Cotton CRC chair, David Anthony (left) with chief executive officer, Guy Roth**