Press Release

29th March 2007

Funds for Namoi Cotton Farmers

Funding is available for a range of on-ground activities within the Namoi Catchment. The Cotton Catchments Community CRC (Cotton CRC) in conjunction with the Namoi Catchment Management Authority have incentive funds available for Namoi Valley cotton growers.

Kate Lightfoot, BMP Officer for the Cotton CRC said "These funds are available to address a range of issues such as salinity, erosion and effective water management which may affect Namoi Cotton growers".

"By utilising these funds growers can gain both environmental and cotton production benefits."

Funding is available for activities in the following areas:

Riparian Management
Many activities can be undertaken in riparian areas including erosion control structures, fencing, re-vegetation, weed and pest control, alternative stock water supply and on-going site management.

Native Vegetation
Native vegetation plantings which can provide biodiversity outcomes as well as production in terms of shelter for stock, wind breaks, and spray drift buffers. Funding is also available for the maintenance of existing native vegetation.

Water Management
It is important to continually improve water use efficiencies, but to do this, growers often need to understand current efficiencies. Funding is available to assist growers determine current efficiencies and implement activities to improve these efficiencies.

Salinity Management
A number of activities depending on your type of farming enterprise could assist in managing a salinity problem on farm such as water quality monitoring, erosion control, tree interception lines, grazing management or introduction of perennial pastures.

Cotton Best Management Practices Program
Many of the above activities can assist in implementing your farms action plan to achieve BMP certification. The BMP program can offer aerial and satellite imagery for farm planning and subsidised audit costs to gain certification.

Namoi CMA and Cotton CRC Catchment Officer Stacey Spanswick said "I encourage all the Namoi Cotton farmers to contact the Cotton CRC and see how this funding may be able to assist them. This funding has the potential to vastly improve Catchment health as well as cotton production in the Namoi."

"As each cotton farm differs I advise growers to get in contact so the consultation process can get started".

Further Information and photos: Stacey Spanswick 6799 2417 or Kate Lightfoot 0408 972 516

Cotton Grower John Hawkins measuring soil moisture with a C Probe.