

MEDIA RELEASE

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Cotton Catchment Communities CRC

FIBRE QUALITY RESEARCH, KEEPING AUSTRALIAN COTTON AT THE TOP

Australia's cotton is recognised internationally for its excellent quality and as such is in high demand and commands a premium in world markets. The continual research and development of cotton fibre will keep Australia as the world leader in cotton quality.

"Linking farming systems to fibre quality and textile performance" is a new Cotton Catchment Communities CRC and CRDC funded project, aimed at strengthening the research effort between breeding and agronomic management, and post harvest textile processing.

Dr Robert Long from CSIRO Textile and Fibre Technology said "Australian cotton fibre is exported into a dynamic and competitive market and there is a need to ensure an ever-improving product to meet the demand from spinners. This environment means fibre quality is just as important for maintaining the viability of the industry as cotton yield".

"The project aims to quantify the impact of agronomic management practices and post harvest treatments (harvest, storage and ginning) on textile processing, such as yarn and fabric processing"

Current activities include the measurement of quality attributes that reflect the performance of cotton lint from a spinner's perspective and the making and testing of fabric derived from field experiments at the Australian Cotton Research Institute.

Information from these trials will be used in developing guidelines and formulate new management strategies and crop treatments that enable growers to produce high-quality fibre that meets market needs and consumer preference.

"The project will also provide more comprehensive fibre performance information to the CSIRO breeding program, which will help to streamline the development of superior cotton varieties".

"By working on the linkages between on farm parameters and fibre quality from a textile perspective the project should significantly enhance the commercial value of Australian cotton" Dr Long concluded.

For More Information please contact Dr Robert Long on 02 6799 1500 or 0428 167477