

Hands-on research at Cotton Conference

Cotton growers will have the unique opportunity to go one-on-one with researchers via interactive discussions and practical demonstrations in small groups in a special 'hands-on research' session at the 12th Australian Cotton Conference at the new Gold Coast Convention and Exhibition Centre on August 12.

The session was developed to allow conference participants improved interaction with a greater number of researchers and extension personnel involved in a wide range of research projects.

Session coordinator, Greg Kauter, research program manager with the CRDC, said it will allow conference delegates numerous opportunities to discuss new and emerging areas of research, and debate and share different perspectives from across the industry.

He said the hands-on research session will comprise a series of small concurrent group discussions focused on a specific research topic. At each station an ACGRA member will introduce researchers and extension team members involved in the research topic, and act as a discussion facilitator.

Topics listed for discussion include:

- Soil biology — what's hiding in the ground?;
- Managing problem soils with cropping systems;
- Nutrition for a better crop;
- Black root rot;
- Fusarium — is it there, what can I do?;
- The processes of making GM crops — back to basics;
- Mirids — sampling, damage, thresholds, options;

- Bt resistance — measuring and managing;
- Managing resistance of aphids and mites;
- Trichogramma, assassin bugs and other allies in the field;
- Whitefly — experiences from the front-line;
- Checking Bollgard II crops;
- What do trees, crops and weeds do to insects?;
- What value is the environment to your farm ... And vice versa?;
- Managing climatic risk — what's in the toolkit?;
- Salinity — assessing your risk;
- Getting the most out of your water — using *Hydrologic* to optimise bales per megalitre;
- Furrow irrigation — how can it be optimised?; and,
- Thinking laterally about pivots and trickle.

Each topic discussion will be approximately 30 minutes and each will repeat three times during the session (afternoon of August 12). The format of each topic discussion will vary but will include a facilitated discussion and in some cases practical demonstrations.

Greg Kauter said conference delegates will also enjoy additional opportunities to confer with researchers and extension personnel during poster sessions, and at the Australian Cotton Cooperative Research Centre display.

POSTER SESSIONS

The Poster Sessions will feature a formal, graphic presentation of a study or topic displayed on boards located throughout the precincts of the conference, for researchers to create awareness of



Dr Brian Duggan, Australian Cotton CRC and CSIRO based at Narrabri will be leading the *Mirids — sampling, damage, thresholds, options* topic at the ACGRA Cotton Conference on the Gold Coast in August.

research projects, to gather feedback, enhance networking opportunities, and discuss projects with interested delegates.

A special 'Peoples Choice Award' will be presented for the most informative poster during the final plenary session (6pm) on Wednesday August 11.

Visitors to the Australian Cotton CRC stand will be exposed to the latest research on weeds, diseases and semiochemicals, as well as decision support systems such as *OZCOT*, *HydroLOGIC*, *WATERpak*, *SOILpak*, *NUTRIpak*, *ENTOpak*, *MACHINEpak*, *SPRAYpak*, *WEEDpak* and the new IPM Guidelines.

Further information on conference registration is available on the web at www.csd.net.au/acgra

For further information contact Greg Kauter 02 6792 4088 or 0429 700 711.