

# Cleaner and greener cotton in CQ

By Joss Barber, Deltapine Australia

**M**overs and shakers in the central highlands cotton growing region were under scrutiny in early February as industry members undertook judging for the 2005 Excellence in Farming Award. This season, Monsanto and Deltapine Australia are the major sponsors of the award.

Monsanto representative, Jim Wark says the award is prestigious and provides the opportunity for farms to showcase their involvement and commitment to efficiency, the environment and the community. Among other considerations, it focuses on Best Management Practices adaptations which help the cotton industry to give a fine example for the rest of the rural sector.

Deltapine's General Manager, Tony May was one of the three judges for the award in 2004. "Cotton farms in the central highlands are of such a high calibre in all aspects of efficiency and focus on environmental and economic compatibility," he

says. "Judges were very impressed with the operations and attitudes in adopting new technology, integration of BMP and yield potential of crops."

Robyn and Neek Morawitz from Argoon at Comet, near Emerald, received the Excellence in Farming Award last year.

Neek Morawitz says the award was an encouragement for the incorporation of on-farm practices that have been imple-



Tony May.

mented over the past few years in the interest of efficiency and the environment. From basic involvement in schemes such as the 'come clean, go clean' project which encourages good hygiene practices, to more complex adaptations that may take a few years to fully achieve, Neek says they are all integral components of a bigger picture.

The Excellence in Farming award for 2005 will be presented at the Central Highlands Cotton Growers and Irrigators Association Awards dinner on July 29 2005.



Inspecting a Deltapine trial plot at Emerald.