

Part 5 - Plain English Summary

You must submit a Plain English Summary of your completed research project that is not commercial in confidence, and that can be published by the Cotton Research & Development Corporation in print or on the world wide web. An electronic copy of the plain English summary must also be forwarded by E-mail (angela@crdc.org.au).

This project supports the maintenance of CSIRO fibre quality testing at Narrabri. That facility mainly serves the cotton breeding program, where the fibre properties of all breeding generations are measured to ensure continued improvement in fibre properties with new releases. It is essential that these measurements be done at Narrabri where the breeding program is based.

The continued acceptance of Australian cotton on the local and export market relies on good and improving fibre quality. The CSIRO breeding program has had highly beneficial effects on the fibre quality of the Australian crop: fibre strength has been improved up to 30% in the last decade and new varieties for release in 2000 maintain or continue that improvement. The effectiveness of the breeding programs in upgrading quality is largely dependent on the ability to rapidly screen large numbers of selections. The fibre properties of new varieties are heavily dependent on this facility being kept at a high pitch of efficiency.