

# DR GUY ROTH

## *Cotton Seed Distributors Researcher of the Year*



Dr Guy Roth has been a significant contributor to cotton industry research, delivery and education over the past 25 years. Throughout his years of dedication to the industry a thread has remained; long term sustainability of the cotton industry.

Beginning his work in researching irrigation technologies in the Namoi Valley and California in the 1990's, he pioneered research into the relationships between water use and cotton plants. Initially using hand held remote sensing technology, canopy temperatures and later, satellite and airborne video imagery he tested the correlation between plant stress and crop outcomes. His work led to fundamental plant water relationships now used in a range of everyday tools for more effective scheduling of cotton irrigations.

Guy has authored, instigated or contributed to countless publications on irrigation, riparian management, water use efficiency, birds, soil health, biodiversity and irrigation effectiveness. He has received much acclaim for his work including authoring a key cotton irrigation paper that became the most downloaded paper of the International Journal of Crop and Pasture Science in 2014. This achievement saw him win the Australia Association of Cotton Scientists' Science Publication Award in 2015.

Much of Guy's work has featured improving the practices of cotton growers through better research, monitoring of these changes and documenting the outcomes. His work helps industry leaders and other researchers with scientifically credible data to demonstrate the improvements made in the cotton industry over the past two decades.

In 2003 Guy first presented to the World Cotton Conference about the sustainability of the Australian cotton industry. More than a decade later, at the 2016 World Cotton Conference, Guy presented

### **FACILITY**

Roth Rural, Narrabri, NSW

### **FINALIST**

Dr Guy Roth

Australian Grown Cotton sustainability metrics research. Guy's research enabled the Australian cotton industry to be the first in the world to report to the International Cotton Advisory Committee's sustainability standards and those of the Global Reporting Initiative in 2014.

Guy is pleased to note that over these years he has seen a 40% improvement in water use efficiency and a reduction in pesticide use by 98%.

The myBMP program allows Australian growers to implement and record their activities. Guy has been integral in aligning myBMP to the Better Cotton Initiative.

Recognising the vital importance of people to the industry, Guy's work has also seen him research the impacts of drought on businesses and communities





and the social licence of cotton within communities. This interest has also seen him coordinate the bi-annual Cotton Conference for the last 8 years.

In his role as CEO of the Cotton Catchment Communities Cooperative Research Centre Guy oversaw the securing of the largest research grant ever to be provided to the cotton industry. The \$140 million initiative allowed many more researchers to be engaged and significant research outcomes to be met; including socioeconomic science to understand the fabric of our regional communities.

Guy is a passionate and dedicated mentor; under his tenure at The University of New England the Cotton Production Course reached record enrolment numbers. To this day he feels great satisfaction when

seeing one of the more than 400 students that he assisted to complete the course, now in influential and fulfilling roles in the industry.

The industry would look vastly different in 2016 if it wasn't for the work, commitment and intelligence of Dr Guy Roth. His integrative research into the production, social and environmental aspects of cotton farming systems, along with his contribution to industry organisations, fellow researchers and our youth, has created multi-generational benefits to the Australian Cotton Industry.

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AUSTRALIAN COTTON AWARDS WEBSITE:  
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