

DR PAUL GRUNDY

Cotton Seed Distributors Researcher of the Year



The name, Paul Grundy, is well known in the cotton industry, having been involved for more than 17 years in a range of research, development and extension roles at various locations with the Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries.

Most recently, Paul has been working closely with the Central Highland Cotton Growers, listening to them directly to get an intimate understanding of their production constraints. To help solve these issues, he has undertaken a detailed research program examining late winter sowing that aims to better coincide boll filling with optimal weather conditions prior to Christmas in Central Queensland (CQ).

Working with Dr Stephen Yeates, Paul undertook an in-depth analysis of CQ climatic factors and how crops respond. The 3 year research program has produced valuable data on crop climatic responses and how growers might use planting dates to mitigate various risks. Paul regularly challenges people during field walks to “think like a cotton plant” when discussing agronomic management tactics.

Through effective communication with growers and consultants, Paul is able to challenge the status quo. His work has now encouraging people to completely reassess how they grow cotton in CQ. With a much longer planting window this coming season with Bollgard 3, CQ growers can use this high quality data to base their planting decisions so they are better prepared to manage seasonal variability.

Paul is working towards the commercialisation of an improved pigeon pea variety to be released in 2017. The variety has a more reliable and longer flowering period, increasing its attractiveness to *Helicoverpa* moths which will assist in extending the life of Bt technology.

His role with the Bt Tech panel and TIMS has seen him contribute his substantial knowledge on the interactions that occur between a crop’s physiology, insects and the farming system to help the industry

FACILITY

Queensland Department of Agriculture and Fisheries, Toowoomba, Qld

FINALIST

Dr Paul Grundy

better plan for long term sustainability.

Paul’s commitment to industry has been demonstrated numerous times. Whether it has been mealybugs at St George or symphylids at Moree or helping with crop recovery from the CQ floods, Paul goes out of his way to assess the situation and work towards a solution, even when it is not strictly part of his role.

Paul’s in-depth understanding of the physiological traits and habits of the cotton plant is grounded in his breadth of research undertaken in the Burdekin region. This body of work culminated in the Burdekin Norpak publication which will underpin any future NQ industry developments whilst also informing production tactics for the CQ Industry.

With an interest in the use of drones for on- farm





decision making in the future, Paul recently put himself through his pilot's licence. This now allows him to test the use of drones for crop pest detection or for the capture video to illustrate production concepts from new perspectives.

Paul has directed and filmed over 60 short films for the cotton industry hosted on CottonInfo's YouTube channel. Whether it is "How to Start a Siphon" through to explaining concepts on nitrogen management or crop establishment, these films help train cotton industry staff and convey more complex issues to growers.

Paul is well known for his collaborative, grower-driven approach to research. This approach not only

ensures his research is always contemporary and highly relevant, but it also facilitates high uptake rates of the research outcomes. This approach is one of the key reasons for his success as a researcher in the cotton industry.

resistance, prolonging the use of Bt technology and ultimately making the investment in the technology more cost effective. Their long term commitment to research and their vitally important findings make them an invaluable part of the Australian Cotton Industry.

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