▼ Grant Summary

CRDC ID:	CA 10895
Project Title:	SataCrop maintenance and hosting
Project Start Date:	1 December 2023
Project End Date:	30 June 2025
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Organisation:	Cotton Australia Limited

There is a document upload section at the end of this application if you need to provide further information that cannot be entered as plain text into Fluxx, for example: supporting evidence including photos, data, trial reports, etc for each milestone or the project in general.

▼ Final Report

Confidential or for public release? Public Release

Cotton Australia acknowledges the financial assistance of the Cotton Research and Development Corporation in order to undertake this project.

Summary for Public Release

Executive Summary:

Satacrop continues to be well supported by cotton growers as a valuable tool for mapping sensitive crop areas. Mapped area as a percentage of total cotton area was 77% for the 2023/24 season and 63% for the 2024/25 season. Unfortunately, we were unable to achieve 80% coverage of the total crop which was our original aim. The commencement of the cotton industry data platform project presents an ideal opportunity to re-assess the scope of Satacrop and to explore ongoing funding options.

Objectives:

- Operation of Satacrop platform for 2023/24 and 2024/25 seasons
- Advance discussions about the future role of Satacrop, including
  - Investigation of alternative funding arrangements
  - Automation of data collection
  - Expansion of functionality for the platform
- Promote the ongoing use of the platform and achieve 80% of total area mapped for each season

Background:

Satacrop has proven to be a valuable tool for cropping industries that allows farmers to log the location of various crop types each year. This allows other farmers and spray operators to determine the location of sensitive crops when they are conducting spray operations. Apiarists can also log the location of hives which allows farmers to advise them about farming operations when necessary.

Ongoing maintenance of Satacrop is funded by Cotton Australia. The platform has been expanded to include other cropping industries, in particular grains and horticulture. There has been limited interest in adopting Satacrop from these other industries and there is no appetite from RDC's or peak industry bodies to promote it within those industries.

The costs of maintaining the Satacrop platform will continue to be borne by the cotton industry, and this project has provided the opportunity to discuss the scope of Satacrop and to investigate alternative funding models for the future. This process is ongoing and no definitive path forward has been established as yet.

Research Activities:

The research activity consisted of the provision of the Satacrop platform for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 seasons and the investigation of alternative funding models and expansion of the scope for the platform.

Outputs:

The platform was maintained for the 2023/24 and 2024/25 seasons, with 77% of the total crop mapped in 2023/24 and 63% mapped in 2024/25. Coverage varies widely between regions and this is detailed in the report attachments.

Impacts:

Cotton crops continue to suffer the effects of off-target movement of phenoxy herbicides each season. A suite of initiatives are used to mitigate the risk of crop damage and it is difficult to separate the degree of impact achieved with each of these. A survey was conducted at the Cotton Australia General Meeting in June 2025 that indicated most people believe industry initiatives are having a positive impact, and that Satacrop is one of the most important tools assisting in the reduction of spray drift damage in cotton.
Detailed results for this survey are provided in the attachments. This suggests an ongoing need for Satacrop and we should continue to seek out ways to maximise engagement with the platform and to optimise the benefits from ongoing investment in this technology.