

AUSTRALIAN COTTON SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE 2022



PLANET. PEOPLE. PADDOCK. is the Australian cotton industry's sustainability framework. It guides work to identify the environmental, social and economic topics assessed as being most important to industry and its stakeholders; coordinate a whole-of-industry strategy to manage these topics, and; engage with stakeholders on actions and progress.

PLANET. PEOPLE. PADDOCK. is not a compulsory standard or a brand. It provides a path for the entire industry to benefit from improving sustainability performance.

PLANET. PEOPLE. PADDOCK. is delivered by a Sustainability Working Group comprised of industry representatives from Cotton Australia, Cotton Research and Development Corporation, CottonInfo, myBMP and the Australian Cotton Shippers Association.



AUSTRALIAN COTTON SUSTAINABILITY FRAMEWORK
PLANET. PEOPLE. PADDOCK.

2021/2022 SUSTAINABILITY

This snapshot provides a summary of the Australian cotton industry's sustainability progress for the 12 months to 30 June 2022 across its most important PLANET (environment), PEOPLE (social) and PADDOCK (economic) topics.

THE FULL 2021/22 SUSTAINABILITY UPDATE IS AVAILABLE HERE

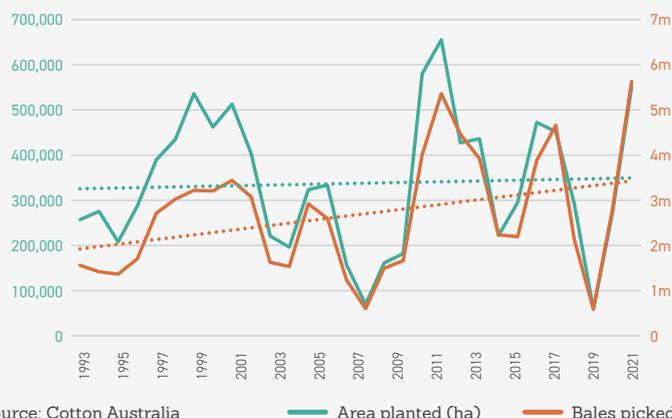
ADDITIONAL DETAILED INFORMATION IS AVAILABLE IN AN ONLINE DATA PACK HERE

2021/2022 SEASON

As cotton is an annual crop, growers adjust the area of cotton they plant each year to reflect water availability.

Good seasonal conditions saw a large area planted and a record harvest of 5.6 million bales valued at a record \$4.6 billion. Australian cotton growers have dramatically improved their productivity over time: the five-year average area planted to cotton has increased by just 11 per cent since 1994, but total production has increased by 84 per cent.

Australian cotton area planted & production: 1993 - 2022



Source: Cotton Australia

		Targeted Outcomes	KEY 2022 TAKEOUT	SDG Alignment	
PLANET		Water	Increase water use efficiency, within sustainable river & ground system limits	52% less water needed to grow a bale of cotton compared to 1997.	
		Greenhouse gas emissions	Contribute to the Paris Agreements' aim of a climate neutral world	Slightly lower yield and higher fertiliser increased emissions per bale	
		Native vegetation	Native vegetation management on cotton farms contributes to regional priorities	Major project to set native vegetation regionally appropriate targets has advanced	
		Pesticides	Support optimal crop production while having no negative impact on human & environmental health	More rain combined with weed resistance management strategies increased herbicide environmental toxic load in recent years	
		Soil Health	Sustained cotton productivity growth by improving soil health	Practices consistent with regenerative agriculture continue to be commonly used by growers	
PEOPLE		Workplace & working conditions	Injury-free cotton farms, skills for innovative agriculture, and a diverse workforce that is treated ethically	Increased proportion of women and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples working on farms and in gins	
		Wellbeing	Contribute to improved wellbeing of people living and working in cotton communities	Advocating for a whole of agriculture approach to manage wellbeing	
PADDOCK		Productivity	Increase yield within sustainable environmental boundaries	Yield dipped slightly from 2021; two years of severe drought before that mean the trendline is flat	
		Profitability	Resilient farms able to invest in their business & community	Irrigated cotton is very important to whole farm profitability and resilience	