



# Paddock PRODUCTIVITY

| growing livelihoods



### A growing global population needs increasing productivity.

With the world's population forecast to increase to 9.7 billion in 2050, farmers all around the world need to produce more food, fibre and foliage with the same or fewer resources. The Australian cotton industry invests in research to increase yields, and to encourage cotton growers to adopt research and new technologies.

### Productivity increases must be sustainable.

Increasing the amount of cotton fibre and seed grown per hectare of land must be socially and environmentally sustainable. The Australian cotton industry's sustainability framework works to reduce negative impacts and increase positive impacts on people and nature – while still growing more cotton with fewer inputs.

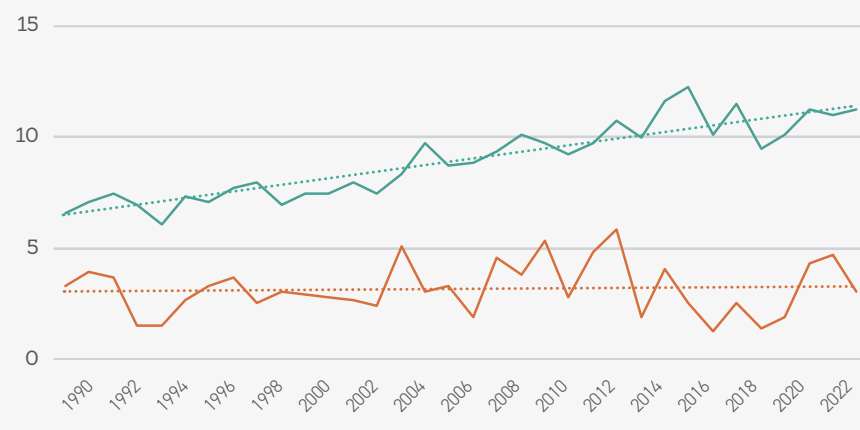


### Irrigated cotton allows for sustainable intensification.

In most farming systems, water is the greatest limiting factor to yield. This means efficient use of irrigation water, within sustainable river system limits, can drive yield increases much more than is possible in rain-grown crops.

The five-year average irrigated yield of Australian cotton increased has increased by 54 per cent from 1994 to 2023. In the same period the average dryland yield has increased by just 11 per cent. Together with our work to improve soil health and improve biodiversity condition on Australian cotton farms, this is in line with the Global Biodiversity Framework's call for an increase in sustainable intensification.

Cotton yield, bales per hectare



Source: Cotton Australia

— Irrigated Bales/ha — Dryland Bales/ha

### OUR GOAL

Increase Australian cotton yield within sustainable environmental boundaries.

### SDG ALIGNMENT



SDG 2.4: implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity, help maintain ecosystems, strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, and improve land and soil quality.

### PATHWAY

1. Establish an industry-owned data platform to deliver increased profitability through better decision-making, facilitating innovative research to deliver better solutions
2. Build resilience to an increasingly variable climate with limited water and reduced inputs.

### KEY FACTS

**54%** increase in irrigated yield from 1994 to 2023 (five-year average)

**11%** increase in dryland yield from 1994 to 2023 (five-year average)

**\$17.7 million**



invested in cotton research and development in 2022/23.