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Syngenta, Goanna Ag collab with Australia's Cotton Seed Distributors to launch FastStartâ?¢ program

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FastStartâ?¢ cotton program develops artificial intelligence for grower confidence



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Cotton growers in Australia will be able to harness the power of AI (artificial intelligence), helping to determine the optimum time for planting.

Syngenta and Australia's Cotton Seed Distributors, alongside commercial partners Goanna Ag, have developed an AI tool which is the latest fee-free product born out of theÂ FastStartâ?¢ programÂ offered alongside the tried and trusted Traffic Light system. The FastStartâ?¢ Field Forecast has been developed for use across the breadth of Australiaâ??s cotton growing regions, with heightened importance in colder reaches including southern parts of NSW.

Growers will be able to view this forecast, or simply use the Traffic Light system that now benefits from these new smarts. To avoid cold shock, seedling diseases and growth setbacks, soil temperature should be 14 degrees Celsius and on a rising plane, measured daily at 8am at a depth of 10 centimetres.

Launched at the 2024 Cotton Conference, Goanna Ag Chief Development Officer John Pattinson said the algorithm behind the FastStartâ?¢ Field Forecast is what produces the simple to use seven-day outlook.

â??Using known data, we have trained the algorithm to make these interpretations. When we run the model, it predicts, reflects and iterates,Â over and over again, building on its own accuracy. Itâ??s complex in the way it works but the outputs are quick and simple. The tool learns nuances and variations between central Queensland, the Liverpool Plains, theÂ MurrumbidgeeÂ Irrigation Area, and everywhere in between. The forecast it produces is specific to the growerâ??s locationâ?• explains Pattinson.