

Alternative Energy Sources for Cotton Production

Craig Baillie^{1,2}, Gary Sandell^{1,3}, Guangnan Chen^{1,4} and Talal Yusaf^{1,5}
 1. National Centre for Engineering in Agriculture, USQ, West St, Toowoomba, QLD
 2. craig.baillie@usq.edu.au 3. gary.sandell@usq.edu.au
 4. guangnan.chen@usq.edu.au 5. talal.yusaf@usq.edu.au

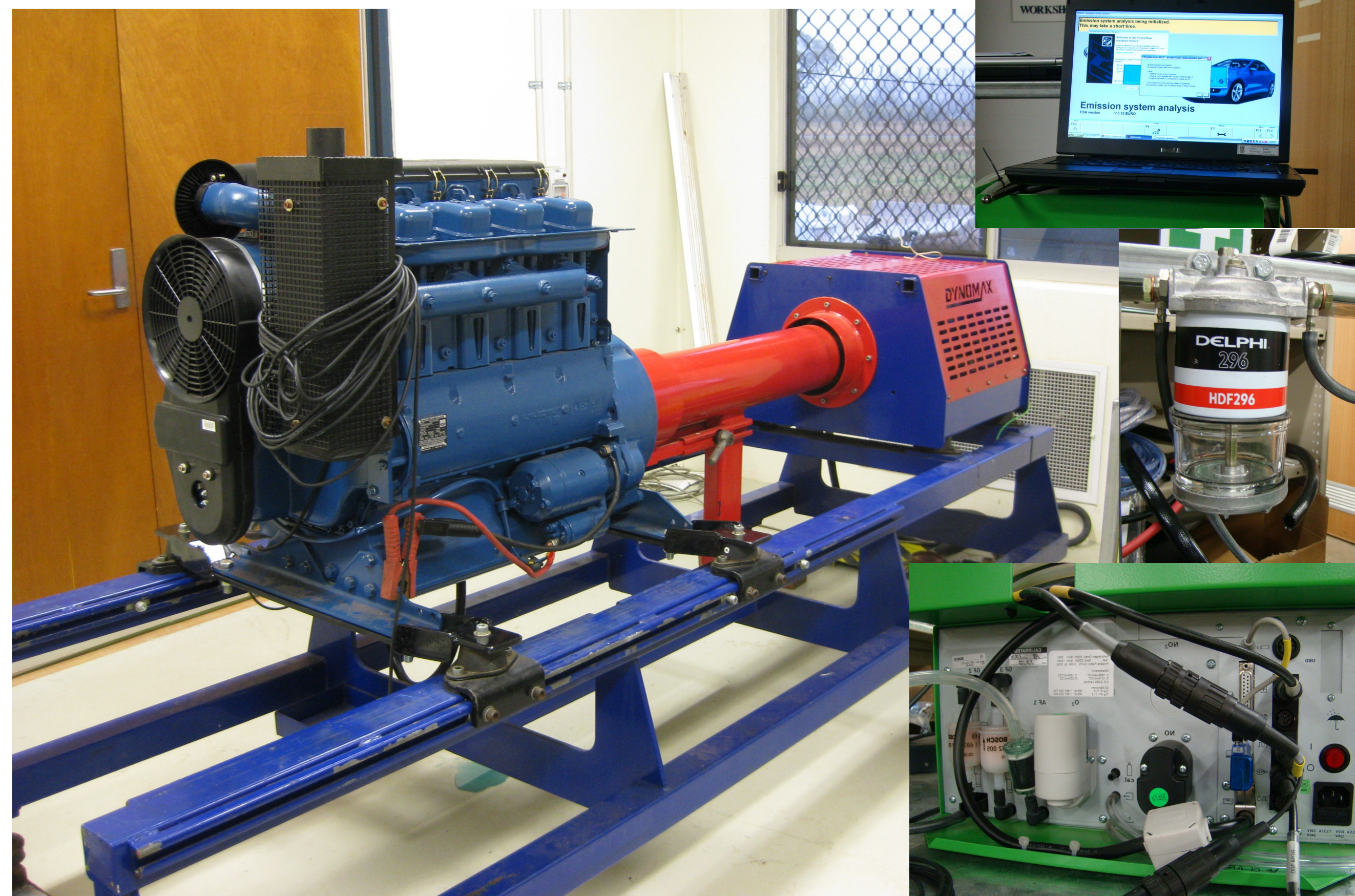
Rising diesel and electricity costs are well known to producers. The cost of energy is predicted to rise significantly into the longer term. This CRDC industry project is investigating alternative energy sources now to put the Australian cotton industry in a better position to deal with these challenges.

The project is assessing current commercial energy alternatives (including biodiesel and CSG) as well as investigating new fuel sources, mixtures and technologies for tractors and pumping.

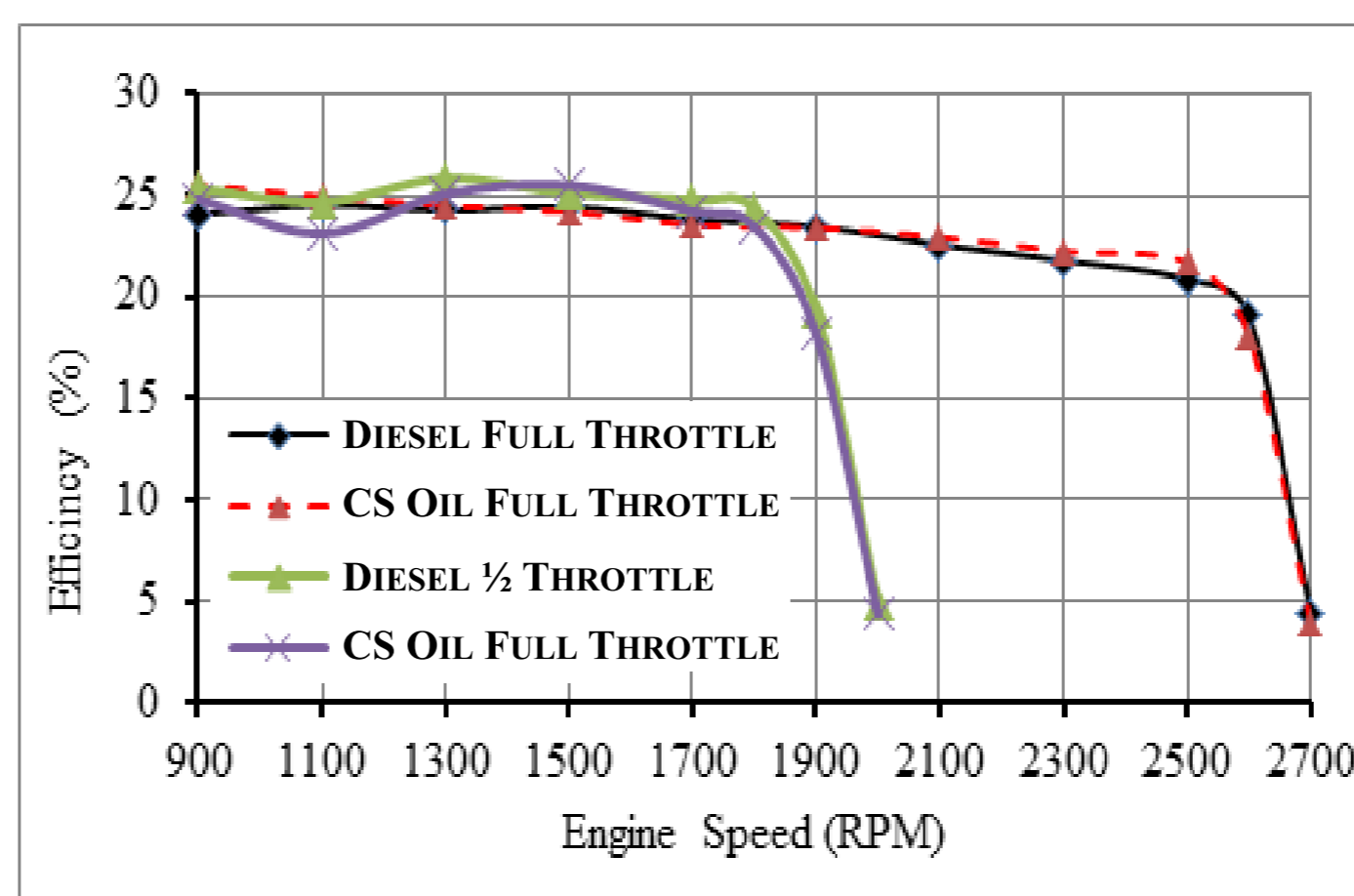
The document, *A Scoping Review of Energy Resources for Agriculture in Australia* is available from the authors.

Grower input to the project is valued and is sought via an online survey. The survey aims to identify grower awareness, use and perceptions of alternative energies.

The project aims to produce quality technical information developed to be specifically applicable to cotton producers. This information will be delivered through online tools, reports and regional extension.



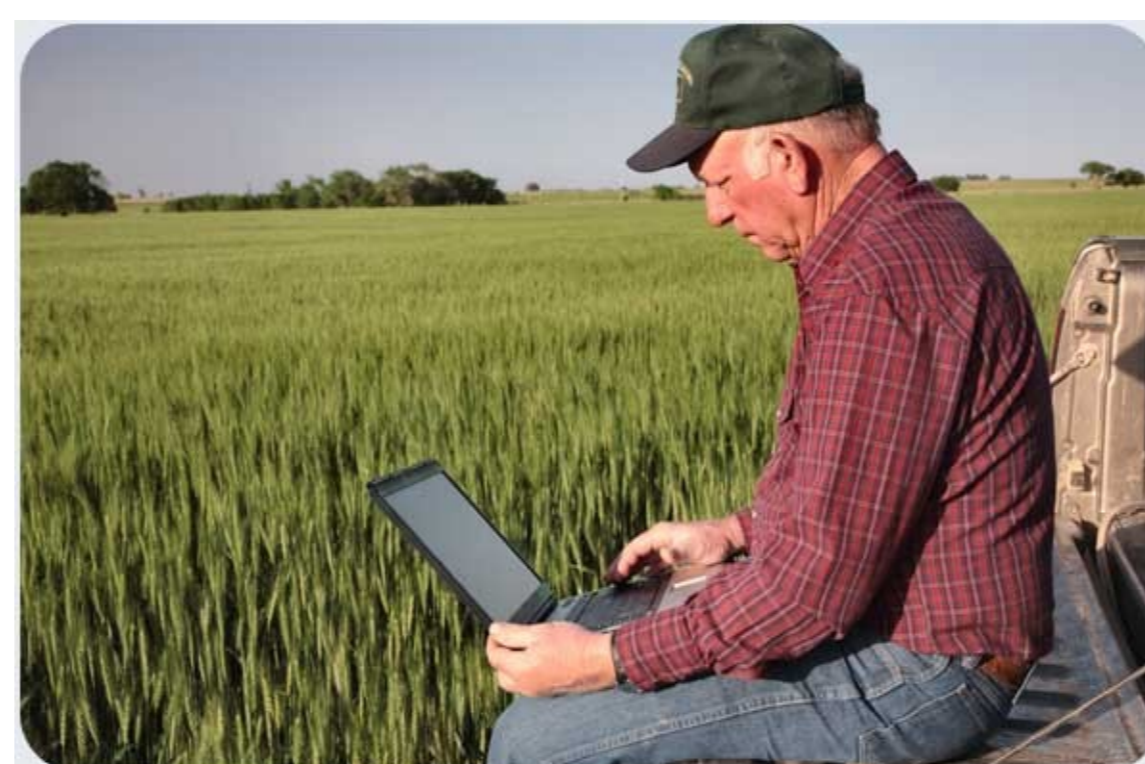
The advanced fuel testing laboratory tests fuel quality and all aspects of engine performance, such as power, torque and emissions such as CO₂ and NO_x.



Cotton powered tractors: Cotton seed oil (CS Oil) has the same performance as diesel. The project is assessing other biofuels, such as canola oil.

The project is assessing known **alternative energy sources** to find which options are practically viable for cotton production and which are not.

	Northern	Central Border	Southern Inland
Solar	High	High	High
Wind	Low	Low	Low
Ethanol	High	High	High
Biodiesel	Fair	Fair	Fair
CNG	Excellent	High	Fair
LPG	Widely available		



Your thoughts on alternative energy are important to us, so please visit our survey and let us know at:

<http://alternativeenergysurvey.nceaprd.usq.edu.au/>

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