

Expression of Interest EOI 2019-20

Part 1- General Details

		EOI ID	EOI - 0212
EOI Title: (max 80 char)	Industry has a spray application extension technical lead		
Type of Research	Extension		
Proposed Start Date:	01 July 2019	Proposed Cease Date:	30 June 2022
<i>Please refer to CRDC's Strategic R&D Plan 2013-2018 for the following.</i>			
CRDC Goal	4. (ES1) Strengthening partnerships and adoption		
CRDC Key Focus Area	4.1 Partnerships and collaboration		
CRDC Activities	4.1.2 CottonInfo partnership is maintained and practice change improved		
<i>Please identify the relevant Measure of Success as outlined in the CRDC Strategic R&D Plan.</i>			
CRDC Measure of Success:	R&D outcomes are demonstrated through extension and adoption activities		
Rural and R&D Priorities	Adoption of R&D		
Strategic Research Priorities	3a. Optimise food and fibre production using our land and marine resources		
CRDC NSRP	1.3.3 - Food - Enhanced production through enhanced biosecurity.		
R&D Manager:	Susan Maas	EOI Due Date:	12 October 2018

Part 2 –Expression of Interest Requirements

Issue: Phenoxy spray drift is a consistent and costly issue for the Australian Cotton industry. As cotton is highly sensitive to 2,4-D, this damage is akin to the 'canary in the coal mine', in terms of a greater underlying issue with pesticide drift more broadly. The Australian cotton industry seeks to be a responsible steward of crop protection products and minimise movement off target, and avoid any damage of other crops or native vegetation. Given the imminent introduction of dicamba, glufosinate and glyphosate tolerant cotton, the industry has added necessity to have good independent advice on spray application issues. CRDC currently has a project that is seeking to understand the factors that influence spray application decisions, which should deliver timely advice to this project on change management factors and tactics to support adoption. CottonInfo is the industry's joint extension program – a partnership between industry bodies CRDC, Cotton Australia and CSD – designed to connect growers with research, and help them achieve best practice. The role of the Development Lead within the CottonInfo team is threefold: (1.) To be the industry's go-to lead in their specific topic area; (2.) To lead the CottonInfo team's development extension effort in that area; and (3.) To provide a regular review of the industry's best practices in that area.				
Outcomes: Spray applicators understand and adopt spray application best practice. Industry is up to date on spray application research.				
Project description: This project should incorporate the CottonInfo tech specialist milestones with a focus on improving understanding and adoption of best practice spray application. The project will also be responsible for supporting herbicide tech panel and TIMS committee in understanding drift risks associated with new technology. Cross commodity collaboration is encouraged. CRDC is a member of National Working Party on Pesticide Application and it would be expected that this project would interact closely with this group.				
Expected Project and Communication Outputs: CottonInfo Communication outputs including review and update of industry spray drift information including myBMP, Cotton Pest Management Guide and Cotton Production Manual.				
Project Investment:				
Year	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22	TOTAL
Indicative budget (up to)	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$50,000	\$150,000

Part 3 – Selection Criteria

The following selection criteria will be used by the CRDC to assess the full research proposals (FRPs) received for each Expression of Interest.

1. A sound understanding of the nature and importance of the outcome to the Australian cotton industry:

The research applicant must address the Issue, Outcome and Project Description in terms of the CRDC Strategic Plan and demonstrate understanding of the impact on the Australian cotton industry.

2. Soundness and clarity of the proposed R&D methods to address project deliverable outcomes:

The research applicant must describe how the research methodology employed will enable the project outcomes to be delivered.

3. Demonstrated capacity of the nominated researcher/s to provide project coordination, management, monitoring and evaluation for the timely delivery of high quality outputs:

The research applicant must describe the research team's project management skills and experience and may include a recent example of a completed project. They must detail the monitoring and evaluation strategy which should include any steering committees to co-ordinate collaborative research, links with CottonInfo, CGAs, Cotton Australia, etc and any additional reporting outside the 6 monthly Progress Reports.

4. Demonstrated track record, technical knowledge and experience of all key personnel in the research area:

The research applicant must describe the project research team's technical skill and experience relevant to the project and methodologies proposed.

5. A demonstrated capacity to effectively communicate project outcomes to diverse stakeholders within the Australian cotton industry:

The research applicant must describe the communication skills and existing communication channels that the research team use to communicate project outcomes to the Australian cotton industry. The new applicants to the cotton industry should provide an example of industry communication from a recent project.

6. Demonstrated ability of the project team to form productive networks and links to build on national and international research already undertaken in related areas:

The research applicant must describe existing networks that the research team use for collaboration with other researchers and an ability to develop new networks as research knowledge increases.

7. The cost effectiveness of this project including cash and in-kind commitments from the applicants and leverage through domestic or international linkages that are useful if not essential to progress the project:

The research applicant should demonstrate market value and market fairness for the proposed budget and comment on the leverage achieved through collaboration and in-kind support.

8. Project demonstrates collaboration between organisations or research groups:

The research applicant must describe the existing or proposed collaboration with other researchers, research groups or committees and the Australian cotton industry.

For information on how to apply, please refer to: www.crdc.com.au/for-researchers

Please note that while the Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC) has released these expressions of interest, due to ongoing drought conditions and the potential impact on CRDCs forward budget, the Corporation may not be in a position to fully support all of the proposals advertised. CRDC has released the full range of EOIs in an endeavour to remain as flexible and opportunistic as possible. Where CRDC may not be in a position to fully support proposals received, we will work with our valued research partners to identify alternative investment options.