

Expression of Interest EOI 2019-20

Part 1 - General Details

| | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|
| | | EOI ID | EOI - 0263 |
| EOI Title: (max 80 char) | Independent environmental (sustainability) audit of Australian cotton farms | | |
| Type of Research | Applied | | |
| Proposed Start Date: | 01 July 2019 | Proposed Cease Date: | 30 June 2021 |
| <i>Please refer to CRDC's Strategic R&D Plan 2013-2018 for the following.</i> | | | |
| CRDC Goal | 2. Improve cotton farming sustainability and value chain competitiveness | | |
| CRDC Key Focus Area | 2.3 Measurement and reporting throughout the value chain | | |
| CRDC Activities | 2.3.1 CRDC collaborates in global leadership for sustainability initiatives | | |
| <i>Please identify the relevant Measure of Success as outlined in the CRDC Strategic R&D Plan.</i> | | | |
| CRDC Measure of Success: | Evidence of involvement in global initiatives | | |
| Rural and R&D Priorities | Natural Resource Management | | |
| Strategic Research Priorities | 1b. Manage risk and capture opportunities for sustainable natural and human systems | | |
| CRDC NSRP | 8.1 - Environmental change - Improving capacity to predicting & measure environmental change. | | |
| R&D Manager: | Jane Trindall | EOI Due Date: | 12 October 2018 |

Part 2 –Expression of Interest Requirements

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|
| Issue: The industry has a long history of independent environmental audits and the fourth environmental audit is due in 2020. | | | | |
| Outcomes: Independent assessment of the industry's environmental performance published. | | | | |
| Project description: This project will engage an independent consultant (or similar) to audit the sustainability (environmental, social and economic) of Australian cotton farms and compare the sustainability of myBMP and non-myBMP farms and identify and make recommendations to the industry to rectify. | | | | |
| Expected Project and Communication Outputs: The fourth Environmental audit published. | | | | |
| Project Investment: | | | | |
| Year | 2019-20 | 2020-21 | 2021-22 | TOTAL |
| Indicative budget (up to) | \$100,000 | \$100,000 | \$0 | \$200,000 |

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.