



## Expression of Interest EOI 2018-19

### Part 1- General Details

		<b>EOI ID</b>	<b>1819-EOI-0142</b>
<b>EOI Title: (max 80 char)</b>	Reducing the impact of weather, insects and microbes on cotton colour		
<b>Type of Research</b>	Applied		
<b>Proposed Start Date:</b>	01/07/2018	<b>Proposed Cease Date:</b>	30/06/2021
<i>Please refer to CRDC's Strategic R&amp;D Plan 2013-2018 for the following.</i>			
<b>CRDC Program</b>	3. Customers		
<b>CRDC Theme</b>	3.1 Assured Cotton		
<b>CRDC Strategy</b>	3.1.2 Supporting the development and implementation of post farm gate BMPs.		
<i>Please identify the relevant Measure of Success as outlined in the CRDC Strategic R&amp;D Plan.</i>			
<b>CRDC Measure of Success:</b>	Customers have confidence in integrity of Australian cotton		
<b>Science and Research Priorities</b>	Resources (4) technologies to optimise yield through effective and efficient resource extraction, processing and waste management.	100 %	
<b>Rural R&amp;D Priorities</b>	Soil, water and managing natural resources, to manage soil health, improve water use efficiency and certainty of supply, sustainably develop new production areas and improve resilience to climate events and impacts;		
<b>R&amp;D Manager:</b>	Allan Williams	<b>EOI Date:</b>	18 August 2017

### Part 2 –Expression of Interest Requirements

<p><b>Issue:</b> Discounts to the agreed contract price for bales of cotton due to colour downgrades can be significant. Currently there is little that can be down management - wise to either prevent or ameliorate colour downgrades. reductions in colour grade are generally associated with rainfall and / or cloudy conditions at harvest, and the extent of the impact will be the result of a complex interaction between insect honey dew, rainfall (amount and duration), microbes, the subsequent weather (sunny &amp; windy versus cloudy &amp; cool), trash levels and seed cotton moisture levels.</p>
<p><b>Outcomes:</b> Successful commercialisation of a solution that reduces economic losses from colour grade penalties would have significant value to Australian cotton growers. The opportunity cost to industry of colour grade loss due to rain is estimated on average to be \$33.5 million, \$13.75 per bale or approx. \$137 per hectare over the last 10 years. The worst industry impact in one year (2014) was \$119 million, \$24.00 per bale or approximately \$240 per hectare.</p>
<p><b>Project description:</b> This project would complement the 'Reducing cotton discolouration risk' project and its novel invention approach with a traditional approach to investigating potential management options. It would also provide a technical capacity to support investigation of novel solutions identified in the 'Reducing cotton discolouration risk' project. The focus of this project would therefore be ensuring that we have a good understanding of the interplay between the different factors that influence colour grade, and their relative contribution to the risk of a colour discount. It would also test a range of potential management options, for example the use of fungicides, alternative defoliation strategies and the use of protective coatings.</p>
<p><b>Project Investment:</b> Budget indicated is maximum available. Where the FRP only seeks to address some of the outcomes, the budget will need to reflect this. Overseas travel is not to be included in FRP budgets unless it directly relates</p>

to a project output and is an explicit milestone. Otherwise overseas travel must be made as a separate travel application.

Year	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	
Indicative budget (up to)	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	\$ 100,000	

### **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.

**121. 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.

**122. 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

**123. 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.

**124. 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.

**125. 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.

**126. 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.

**127. 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.

**128. 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.