

Expression of Interest EOI 2022-23

Part 1- General Details

EOI ID	2223EOI0327		
EOI Title: (max 80 char)	Benchmarking water use productivity for irrigated and dryland cotton farming systems		
Type of Research	Benchmarking		
Proposed Start Date:	1/07/2022	Proposed End Date:	30/06/2025
Please refer to CRDC's Strategic R&D Plan 2018-2023 for the following:			
CRDC Goal	1. Increase productivity and profitability on cotton farms		
CRDC Key Focus Area	1.1 Optimised farming systems		
CRDC Outcome	1.1.2 Improved input efficiencies		
CRDC Performance Indicator	Positive input/output ratios resulting from adoption of new practices		
Rural RD&E Priorities	Soil, Water and Managing Natural Resources		
Science and Research Priorities	Soil and water		
R&D Manager	Elsie Hudson	FRP Due Date	13/10/2021

Part 2 –Expression of Interest Requirements

Issue to be addressed and project description:				
<p>The Australian cotton industry experiences seasonal variation in water use, but has a long term trend of reduced water use and increased water efficiency per bale. To address social license expectations and support industry sustainability reporting there is a need to assess industry water use.</p> <p>As part of industry's commitment to sustainability reporting, this project will independently measure and report water use efficiency in the cotton industry including exploring opportunities to use remote sensing and existing grower and industry data to automate industry benchmarking and support growers to identify areas for improvement. In addition to reporting on irrigated cotton water use productivity metrics, the project will also report on industry's dryland water productivity metrics (expected to be finalised by June 2022). This project will also investigate potential collaborations with broader cross industry initiatives for whole of farming system water productivity.</p>				
Expected project outputs and outcomes:				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Annual independent water productivity benchmarking report. 2. Industry improvements in water use efficiency are informed by independent benchmarking and industry can report on water productivity sustainability metrics. 				
Project Investment:				
Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	TOTAL
Indicative budget (up to)	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$90,000	\$270,000

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. The rationale of the project, how it will support CRDC’s Strategic Plan and the potential impacts for the Australian cotton industry and the Australian community.

This criterion will be assessed on the soundness of the proposal’s understanding of the issues, and the extent to which the project outcomes will address the issues and support CRDC to achieve its measures of success.

2. Project methodology.

This criterion will be assessed on the soundness and clarity of the proposed R&D methods to achieve project deliverables and outcomes.

3. The skills and capacity of the research team to undertake the project.

This criterion will be assessed on the track record, technical knowledge and experience of all key personnel in the research area and the demonstrated capacity of the nominated researcher/s to provide project coordination, management, monitoring and evaluation for the timely delivery of high quality outputs.

4. The proposed ‘Pathway to Impact’.

This criterion will be assessed on the appropriateness of the proposed ‘Pathway to Impact’ and the demonstrated capacity of the project personnel to effectively translate research/project outcomes to on ground actions. Please include the target audience and process for extension/ communication/ commercialisation (as appropriate), as well as any collaboration partners and potential risks. Note that successful FRPs may be requested to develop specific milestones for delivery of project outcomes in collaboration with CottonInfo or CRDC Commercialisation Manager at the outset of the project.

5. Proposed collaborations for the project and / or the collaborative networks of the project team.

This criterion will be assessed on the demonstrated ability of the project personnel to form productive networks to build on national and international research already undertaken in related areas.

6. How this project is cost effective for the Australian cotton industry, including details of the resources being brought to the project.

(This criterion will be assessed on the cost effectiveness of this project including cash and in-kind commitments from the applicants and leverage through domestic or international linkages. Budget including descriptive text will also be assessed as part of this criterion. Max 2,000 character limit including spaces)

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

This EOI is not a guarantee of funding.