

Expression of Interest EOI 2022-23

Part 1- General Details

EOI ID	2223EOI0335		
EOI Title: (max 80 char)	Investigation study – Career pathways for attracting school leavers and career changes to support on farm workforce – What should (cotton) agricultural apprenticeship/traineeships look like?		
Type of Research	Capacity & Education		
Proposed Start Date:	1/07/2022	Proposed End Date:	1/12/2022
Please refer to CRDC's Strategic R&D Plan 2018-2023 for the following:			
CRDC Goal	3. Build adaptive capacity of the cotton industry		
CRDC Key Focus Area	3.1 Science and innovation capability, and new knowledge		
CRDC Outcome	3.1.2 Increased understanding of an participation from the diverse human capital in regional communities		
CRDC Performance Indicator	Information is available on the diversity of social and business networks		
Rural RD&E Priorities	Adoption of R&D		
Science and Research Priorities	Soil and water		
R&D Manager	Rachel Holloway	FRP Due Date	13/10/2021

Part 2 –Expression of Interest Requirements

Issue to be addressed and project description:				
<p>The report 'National Agricultural Workforce Strategy' showed a decline in participation in formal education through Vocational Educational Training (VET) in the agricultural sector. In 2015 agriculture, environment and related studies had 50,122 enrolments, in 2019 this decreased to 40,473. In comparison enrolment in 2015 in food, hospitality was 128,886 and engineering was 260,739. Accredited education and training through VET and higher education is critical to upskilling the agricultural workforce.</p> <p>The project will investigate in NSW and QLD what is working and what are the barriers to the uptake of agricultural apprenticeship/traineeships. Learning on farm largely occurs 'on the job' through workforce development activities provided by the employer. The responsibility for engaging young people and existing workers, resides solely with employer. This leadership by farmers needs to be supported for the cotton/agricultural sector to better articulate the demand for education and recognition of training that occurs on farm. This project will provide an overview of the agricultural apprenticeships/traineeships and what is working to help the career pathways for attracting school leavers and career changes to support on farm workforce.</p>				
Expected project outputs and outcomes:				
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Investigate VET agricultural programs or equivalent in NSW and QLD that support pathways for school leavers and career changes 2. Review apprenticeships and traineeship requirements: barriers, pathways and opportunities 3. Review the skill needs on cotton farms and the current VET agricultural programs 4. Provide recommendations for partnerships and strategies to increase on farm workforce capacity and availability for the cotton industry 				
Project Investment:				
Year	2022-23	2023-24	2024-25	TOTAL
Indicative budget (up to)	\$60,000	\$0	\$0	\$60,000

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.