

## Expression of Interest EOI 2022-23

### Part 1- General Details

<b>EOI ID</b>	<b>2223EOI0337</b>		
<b>EOI Title:</b> (max 80 char)	<b>Regionally specific guidelines for the integration of cover crops into a cotton farming system</b>		
<b>Type of Research</b>	Knowledge creation		
<b>Proposed Start Date:</b>	1/07/2022	<b>Proposed End Date:</b>	30/06/2025
<i>Please refer to CRDC's Strategic R&amp;D Plan 2018-2023 for the following:</i>			
<b>CRDC Goal</b>	2. Improve cotton farming sustainability and value chain competitiveness		
<b>CRDC Key Focus Area</b>	2.1 Sustainability of cotton farming		
<b>CRDC Outcome</b>	2.1.1 Improved environmental footprint for cotton farms		
<b>CRDC Performance Indicator</b>	Positive input/output ratios resulting from adoption of new practices		
<b>Rural RD&amp;E Priorities</b>	Soil, Water and Managing Natural Resources		
<b>Science and Research Priorities</b>	Soil and water		
<b>R&amp;D Manager</b>	Meredith Conaty	<b>FRP Due Date</b>	13/10/2021

### Part 2 –Expression of Interest Requirements

<b>Issue to be addressed and project description:</b>				
<p>Cover crop types, their management and the reasons behind planting and managing them range between different regions, soil types and climates. Feedback from several regions has indicated that there are both research and extension questions and needs in specific areas. The range in questions being asked by growers, and factors affecting decisions around planting and management of cover crops lends this topic to a two-fold approach. Firstly, there are research questions about the best crops to use, and what the multiple benefits to soil and water management might be. Secondly there is an extension and on-farm research program requirement, using standardised measurements and assessments of various cover crops being used on farms throughout the industry. These could be used as case studies, and to evaluate in a consistent manner what did and didn't work, and the extent to which various desired and extra benefits were realised.</p> <p>This will require both a research component, and collaboration with CottonInfo work on cover crops already underway. The project will need to work closely with CottonInfo to develop assessment criteria for commercial cover crops, as well as providing the support to collect and analyse the data.</p>				
<b>Expected project outputs and outcomes:</b>				
<p>This project will help answer questions coming from growers about how to incorporate cover crops into a modern cotton farming system, with a focus cover crop choice and their management, and will in particular:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Undertake a review of current cover crops being used in various regions</li> <li>2. Assess the effects of cover crops on soil carbon, soil microbial activity, soil water holding capacity and infiltration</li> <li>3. Develop criteria for the analysis and assessment of the suitability of commercial cover crops</li> </ol>				
<b>Project Investment:</b>				
<b>Year</b>	<b>2022-23</b>	<b>2023-24</b>	<b>2024-25</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>
Indicative budget (up to)	\$160,000	\$160,000	\$160,000	\$480,000

### **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](http://www.crdc.com.au/for-researchers)

This EOI is not a guarantee of funding.