

2020–21 investment and impact

The Australian cotton industry in 2020–21



CRDC's investment in 2020–21

 **\$16.9 million**
CRDC's investment in cotton RD&E on behalf of cotton growers and the Australian Government

 **188**
RD&E projects

 **85**
research partners

5 – KEY PROGRAM AREAS

 Increasing productivity and profitability on Australian cotton farms;

 Improving cotton farming sustainability and value chain competitiveness;

 Building the adaptive capacity of the Australian cotton industry;

 Strengthening partnerships and adoption;

 Driving RD&E impact.

CRDC impact

100% the number of CRDC's investments in 2020–21 that have been in partnership with the cotton industry.

365 the number of stakeholders that provided feedback to the Australian cotton industry's draft sustainability targets during consultation in 2021–22.

 **55 per cent**
the number of CRDC's investments in cross-sectoral collaborative projects.

 **96 per cent**
the percentage of 2020 Cotton Grower Survey respondents who agreed CRDC is a trusted information source. 91 per cent said they were supportive of CRDC's investments.

 **12.5 per cent**
the targeted increase in irrigated cotton water-use efficiency that CRDC is helping the industry to achieve every five years under the sustainability targets.

7 major collaborative projects that CRDC has led or actively participated in during 2021–22 under two government initiatives: Rural R&D for Profit, and the National Landcare Program Smart Farming Partnership.

9 the number of priority areas for the cotton industry under the industry's sustainability targets: water, carbon, biodiversity, pesticides, soil health, quality of work life, wellbeing and social capital, efficiency, and profitability.

CRDC impact

 **(Almost) 50 per cent**
the reduction in water needed to grow a bale of cotton over the past 25 years. An analysis of available water use data shows the industry has almost halved the amount of water needed to grow a bale of cotton since 1996.

15
the number of participants in the 2021 Australian Future Cotton Leaders program.

 **77 per cent**

the reduction in the amount of herbicide used by the new John Deere See & Spray Select™ technology, underpinned by CRDC research, compared to traditional spraying.

 **70 per cent**

the percentage of Smarter Irrigation for Profit Phase 2 participants who intend to make management practice changes to their irrigation systems in the next 12 months.

630 students **9** the number of local grower-led projects CRDC invested in through its Grassroots Grants program in 2020–21, taking the total number of projects supported since it began to 82.

the number of enrolments in the UNE Cotton Production Course over the past 10 years, supported by CRDC and the former Cotton Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs).

6 the number of global initiatives CRDC participates in on behalf of the cotton industry.

52 the number of applications received by CRDC's challenge to revolutionise spray application through the Business Research and Innovation Initiative (BRII) program, resulting in six feasibility studies.

\$600,000
the minimum contribution of Country Road to a partnership with CRDC, Cotton Australia, and Landcare Australia to improve biodiversity on Australian cotton farms.

2.3 million
 the number of collective views that the 213 CRDC-supported best practice videos have amassed on the CottonInfo YouTube channel as at May 2021.

75 ha
 the area of field trials established under the Cotton Landcare Tech Innovations project to trial revegetation methods: tubestock, direct and drone seeding.

14,000 ha
 the area of cotton grown in Northern Australia in 2020–21, an increase from less than 1,000 hectares in 2016–17.