May 2024

Stakeholder Consultation Plan

for engaging on Research, Development and Extension priorities

Introduction

The Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC) exists to grow the sustainable future of cotton through innovation with impact. We deliver world-class research, development and extension (RD&E) outcomes for the cotton industry through thought leadership, innovation, adoption and collaboration.

Cotton growers are at the heart of what we do: they determine our RD&E priorities and co-fund our research through a grower levy, matched by Commonwealth contributions.

Our growers, and the cotton they produce, are a major contributor to the nation's environmental, social and economic fabric.

Australian cotton is considered to be one of the most sustainable in the world, thanks in part to the RD&E that underpins it. Compared to 1992, Australian cotton growers use 97 per cent less pesticides, 52 per cent less water, and 34 per cent less land to grow one bale of cotton.

Cotton employs more than 12,000 people across 150 rural and regional communities, many of which rely heavily on cotton for their economic prosperity and viability. Each year, Australia grows enough of this high-quality natural fibre to clothe 500 million people. And, according to the Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES), the value of cotton exports will be $3.8 billion in 2024-25.

Innovative and adaptive growers, supported by RD&E and world-leading researchers, have driven Australian cotton's success. CRDC's role is to continue driving this success through RD&E.

Purpose

The purpose of this Stakeholder Consultation Plan is to outline the approach that CRDC will take for identifying the research development and extension needs of industry for the annual investment round. This includes the options available for participating in the identification of RD&E priorities, and for understanding how the information received by CRDC has been taken into account.

CRDC generally operates on a rolling investment cycle with new investments starting throughout the year. As such, feedback and advice on RD&E needs and priorities is welcome at any time.

How to participate – An overview

Levy payers interested in providing direct feedback to CRDC on RD&E priorities have a number of options. These are:

1. Through the CRDC website: www.crdc.com.au/growers/feedback-rde-priorities
2. Through discussion with their local CottonInfo Regional Extension Officer: www.cottoninfo.com.au/about-us
3. Through discussion with CRDC Innovation Brokers, contactable in the first instance by phoning CRDC on 02 6792 4088 or emailing research@crdc.com.au

Levy payers and industry stakeholders may also participate through attending research prioritisation meetings held jointly by CRDC and Cotton Australia. Please note that participation in these meetings requires you to be nominated by your local Cotton Grower Association. Please contact your local Cotton Grower Association or Cotton Australia if interested.

Consultation and Project Investment Timeline

Activity	Details	Timing
Provision of feedback directly to CRDC	Via CRDC website, CottonInfo and Innovation Brokers directly.	Ongoing
Survey of growers	Survey distributed by Cotton Australia by email to all growers. Results are collated and provided to CRDC.	Prior to R&D Priority Workshops
R&D Priority Workshops	Cotton Australia research representatives meet with CRDC to discuss and prioritise RD&E needs, receive updates on research projects, and test research priorities prior to CRDC board consideration.	Twice yearly (May/June and Nov)
Development of Expressions of Interest to undertake research	CRDC Innovation Brokers develop EOIs based on feedback and information on RD&E needs	Ongoing
Publication of Expressions of Interest and receipt of research proposals	EOIs published on CRDC website and interested research organisations respond	Ongoing
Finalisation of research projects for recommendation to CRDC Board for investment	Innovation Brokers identify preferred projects and finalise project details based on feedback received.	Ongoing
Board consideration of recommended projects	CRDC Board considers investment recommendations and approves investments.	Ongoing
Projects enacted, with updates provided to growers	CRDC provides regular updates to growers about research projects via communications channels and R&D Priority Workshops	Ongoing

Further information:

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