

Expression of Interest EOI

Part 1 – General Details

EOI ID	985
EOI Title	AI for Cotton Innovation and Impact
Type of Research	Knowledge transfer/application
Expected Start Date	01/05/2026
Expected End Date	01/12/2026
CRDC Pillar	2. People
CRDC Theme	2.1 Design and Innovation
CRDC Outcome	2.1.1 By 2024, processes that enable growers, researchers and industry stakeholders to develop pathways to change are supported and encouraged
EOI Close Date	24/04/2026

Part 2 – Expression of Interest Requirements

Issue to be addressed and project description:

AI presents a significant opportunity to drive innovation and efficiency through predictive analytics, optimising the design of experimentation and mapping research and emerging technologies. It also carries risks such as the legality of data ownership, protection of IP, thus the need for robust governance to ensure responsible use. AI can help CRDC achieve its strategic objectives by enabling data-driven decision-making, improving research efficiency, and accelerating innovation through predictive analytics and automation.

AI technology adaptation is fast moving, with new capacity and applications emerging on a monthly basis. As well as the application to CRDC's processes, we also know that our research partners and stakeholders will also be adopting and adapting AI, affecting the way we invest and collaborate. This investment will enable research efficiency and innovation for the Australian cotton industry through increased integration of ai. It will provide CRDC with capacity and flexibility to understand the opportunity and manage risks, and develop and deploy improvements as they emerge.

This investment will

- Engage with CRDC, review current RD&E processes and activities as well as the broader technological and RDC landscape and develop a roadmap for CRDC to guide the application and implementation of AI to improve the impact of CRDC's investment in RD&E. This should include technical and implementation risks, review of policies, proposed case studies of internal and external examples and actionable recommendations.

- Informed by the roadmap and prioritisation process with CRDC, develop external and/or internal facing

resources and actionable solutions to support research efficiency and innovation for the Australian cotton industry and provide practical demonstration of some of the recommendations.

Expected project outputs and outcomes:

Output:

- a. Roadmap for AI application that reflects current priorities, rapidly changing technology and provides guidance for decision making, management of risk and actionable recommendations.
- b. Delivery of activities/resource/prototype/case study/s informed by roadmap and agreed to by CRDC that demonstrates and tests ai planning by focussing on examples of practical implementation within CRDC.

Outcome:

This investment will enable research efficiency and innovation for the Australian cotton industry through increased integration of ai into CRDC processes.

Project Investment:

Year	2025/26	2026/27	TOTAL
Indicative budget (up to)	\$30,000.00	\$50,000.00	\$80,000.00

Additional guidance:

To apply, [follow this process](#). For further information, contact the CRDC Innovation Administration team on 02 6792 4088 or via research@crdc.com.au.

This EOI is not a guarantee of funding.