

CRDC Grassroots Grants: Guidelines for applicants

Overview

The CRDC Grassroots Grant program supports grower-led projects that help build skills, knowledge and connections across the cotton industry.

The grants are designed to back practical, on-the-ground ideas that support sustainable financial, environmental and social outcomes for cotton growers and their communities.

What are we looking for?

The program supports projects that help to:

1. Build stronger networks between growers, consultants and researchers
2. Grow the skills, knowledge, social or economic wellbeing of cotton growers and their communities
3. Support and engage new and emerging growers in the industry
4. Strengthen collaboration within and between regions, industries and communities
5. Ground truth and test research and development findings
6. Improve the uptake and adoption of CRDC research and development outcomes
7. Increase awareness and adoption of *myBMP*.

CRDC particularly welcomes applications that support the integration and uptake of research at a regional level. This may include addressing local production challenges, evaluating issues or opportunities that could inform future CRDC investment priorities, or testing and adapting research, technologies or practices from other regions to assess their applicability under local conditions.

Projects where growers learn from other growers are strongly encouraged.

Projects that involve training workshops for staff may be supported for running costs (such as venue hire or catering) where the training is required by regulation. However, please note CRDC will not subsidise the training provider or course fees.

Co-investment

Projects that have a financial or in-kind contribution from partners are viewed favourably.

Who can apply?

Grassroots Grants are available to Cotton Grower Associations (CGAs). Individual growers cannot apply on their own. Growers with an idea are encouraged to discuss it with their local CGA, who may then submit an application on their behalf.

Eligible projects

A broad range of projects are encouraged. Examples of previously funded projects are included with this document to provide an idea of what has been supported in the past.

Before applying, CGAs are encouraged to talk through their idea with a CRDC Innovation Broker or local CottonInfo Regional Extension Officer.

Funding levels

Grants are generally available up to \$10,000 per project. Projects that involve multiple partners or a large geographic area may be considered for higher levels of funding.

GST

If your CGA is registered for GST:

CRDC funding will cover eligible project costs excluding GST.

How this works: the CGA pays the full invoice (including GST) and then claims the GST back from the ATO. CRDC funding covers the remaining cost.

If your CGA is NOT registered for GST:

CRDC funding will cover the full invoice amount, including GST.

How this works: CRDC pays the full invoice and then claims the GST back from the ATO.

Timing

Applications open 1 July each year. Applications close on the advertised date, or earlier if funds are fully allocated. Approved projects are expected to be delivered in the second half of the financial year.

Funding is limited, so CGAs are encouraged to apply as early as possible.

Projects may not be funded if they:

- Do not meet eligibility requirements
- Are submitted after funds have been fully allocated
- Are not supported at CRDC's discretion.

Reporting

The standard reporting and payment process is as follows:

<i>Step</i>	<i>Timing</i>
CGA submits application	From 1 July
CRDC assesses and advises outcome	Within three weeks of submission
CRDC issues funding agreement to successful applicant	Within three weeks of submission
CGA signs and returns agreement with a tax invoice for first payment	As outlined in the funding agreement
CRDC makes first payment	Within three weeks of receiving agreement and invoice
CGA completes project	By 30 June the following year
CGA submits final project and financial report	On completion of agreed milestones
CGA submits final invoice for CRDC payment	After approval of the final report by CRDC

If you're having trouble meeting a reporting deadline, please contact CRDC early to discuss an extension.

Previously Funded Projects



CRDC Grassroots Grants

2011-2012 Grassroots Grants (TOTAL \$90,000)					
Reference	Project Title	Contact	CGA	Completion Date	Amount
CGA1201	Capacity Building via small projects for St George CGA members and community	Ed Willis	St George	30/06/13	\$10,000
CGA1202	Pushing the boundaries	Nigel Corish	Macintyre Valley	30/06/12	\$10,000
CGA1203	Biomass burner at Tandou	David McClure	Menindee & Lower Darling	30/06/12	\$10,000
CGA1204	Gwydir growers	Zara Farrell	Gwydir Valley	30/06/12	\$10,000
CGA1206	Macquarie welcome back	Sharanne Turnbull	Macquarie	28/02/12	\$10,000
CGA1207	Walgett Measurement tools	Lori Nemec	Walgett	31/12/11	\$10,000
CGA1208	Upskilling growers in chem use and nurture teens	Marie Louise Offner	Darling Downs	31/01/13	\$10,000
CGA1209	Engaging growers in My BMP	Marie Louise Offner	Darling Downs	30/06/13	\$10,000
CGA1210	Extension officer for Upper Namoi CGA and Aqavance	Rod Smith	Upper Namoi	1/09/12	\$10,000
2012-2013 Grassroots Grants (TOTAL \$57,570)					
Reference	Project Title	Contact	CGA	Completion Date	Amount
CGA1302	Macquarie Cotton Growers Momentum Continues	Claire Jenkins	Macquarie	31/05/13	\$9,400
CGA1303	Field to Fabric Course Sponsorship	Bron Christensen	Dawson Valley	30/06/13	\$6,600
CGA1304	Capacity Building at the Cotton Fibre Expo	Mel Elms	Lower Namoi	30/06/13	\$2,500
CGA1305	Irrigation History Book	Tracey Geddes	Central Highlands CG&IA	31/08/14	\$10,000
CGA1306	An Afternoon Of Cotton	Kieran O'Keefe	Lachlan Murrumbidgee	30/11/13	\$9,650
CGA1307	Travel: Presenting at APEN International Conference in NZ	Mike and Debbie Austin	Dawson Valley	28/09/13	\$3,870
CGA1308	Future Leaders Industry Excursion	Geoff Hunter	Lower Namoi & Walgett	30/06/14	\$15,550
2013-2014 Grassroots Grants (TOTAL \$61,650)					
Reference	Project Title	Contact	CGA	Completion Date	Amount
CGA1404	Relationship building with high school for future industry workforce	Alex Roughley	Menindee and Lower Darling	31/12/14	\$10,000
CGA1402	Celebrating the Season	Claire Jenkins	Macquarie	31/12/13	\$3,000
CGA1403	Cotton Picking Women's Picnic	Chantal Corish	Macintyre Valley	30/06/14	\$10,000
CGA1405	Understanding soil and plant nutrition for cotton growers	Nigel Corish	Macintyre Valley	30/06/14	\$6,250
CGA1406	Cotton Communities Health Empowerment	Kelly Foran	Dirranbandi	30/06/14	\$9,800
CGA1407	Great Northern Bus Tour	Claire Jenkins	Macquarie	30/06/14	\$6,100
CGA1408	Understanding the Weather	Geoff Hunter	Walgett	30/06/14	\$10,000
CGA1409	Grower Workplace H&S Capacity Building	Mary O'Brien	Darling Downs	30/09/14	\$6,500
2014-2015 Grassroots Grants (TOTAL \$74,560)					
Reference	Project Title	Contact	CGA	Completion Date	Amount
CGA1501	Cotton Planter Development	Geoff Hunter	Lower Namoi	31/12/14	\$10,000
CGA1503	Weather Station project	Emma McCullough	Central Highlands CG&IA	7/05/15	\$10,000
CGA1502	Teachers Field to Fabric	Bron Christensen	Dawson Valley	24/09/14	\$2,200
CGA1505	Grower investigation of tools to manage soil compaction	Lou Gall	Gwydir Valley	30/06/15	\$10,000
CGA1506	Addressing the burning questions	Amanda Thomas	Macquarie	30/06/15	\$12,900
CGA1508	Cotton nutrition workshop	Kate O'Callaghan	Southern Valleys	30/06/15	\$9,460
CGA1507	Education and development of the cotton industry	Emma Ayliffe	Menindee and Lower Darling	30/06/15	\$10,000
CGA1509	Weather station network & Darling Downs grower of the year field day	Mary O'Brien	Darling Downs	30/06/15	\$10,000
2015-16 Grassroots Grants (TOTAL \$91,600)					
Reference	Project Title	Contact	CGA	Completion Date	Amount
CGA1601	In-field trials: dryland cotton vs sorghum on various row configurations	Jo Weier	Mungindi Water Users'	30/06/16	\$10,000
CGA1602	Gwydir Valley dryland planting date row configuration trial	Ben Dawson	Gwydir Valley	31/12/16	\$10,000
CGA1603	Optimised irrigation row configuration	Jake Cutcliffe	Gwydir Valley	30/06/16	\$10,000
CGA1604	Local weather data access	Damien Erbacher	Dawson Valley	30/06/16	\$10,000
CGA1605	Binnia Valley Growers Group: In-field trials to address local barriers	Jon Welsh	Upper Namoi	30/01/17	\$10,000
CGA1606	Upgrade to weather station network and chemical application days	Chris Barry	Darling Downs	30/09/16	\$10,000
CGA1607	Irrigation scheduling training using canopy sensors	Geoff Hunter & Steve Madden	Lower Namoi	30/06/16	\$5,000
CGA1608	Strengthening CGA policy and procedures	Emma McCullagh	Central Highlands CG&IA	30/06/16	\$10,000
CGA1609	Seasonal benchmarking with canopy temperature sensors	Amanda Thomas	Macquarie	1/08/15	\$6,400
CGA1611	Weigh trailer for Southern NSW cotton trials	Kate O'Callaghan	Southern Valleys	30/06/16	\$10,000
CGA1610	Stickybeak farm tour	Bronwyn Christensen	Dawson Valley	29/02/16	\$200
2016-17 Grassroots Grants (TOTAL \$85,000)					
Reference	Project Title	Contact	CGA	Completion Date	Amount
CGA1701	Weather station project	Brent Scott	Dirranbandi	31/10/16	\$10,000
CGA1702	In-field trials: dryland cotton vs sorghum on various row configurations	Jo Weier	Mungindi Water Users'	30/06/17	\$10,000
CGA1703	Capital Item: Planter bar and trailer	Ian Gourley	Dryland Cotton Research Assoc.	30/06/17	\$20,000
CGA1704	Weather station access to minimise the spray drift in the Macquarie	Amanda Thomas	Macquarie	1/05/17	\$9,000
CGA1705	Weather station project	Jack Harris	Walgett	31/05/17	\$10,000
CGA1706	Counteract high sodium uptake & N efficiency via soil health	Craig Estens	Gwydir Valley	1/05/17	\$10,000
CGA1707	Assessing the benefits: transitioning to controlled traffic for compaction	Emma Ayliffe	Southern Valleys	30/06/17	\$6,000
CGA1708	Upgrade to Darling Downs weather station network	Adam McVeigh	Darling Downs	1/09/17	\$10,000
2017-18 Grassroots Grants (TOTAL \$82,232)					
Reference	Project Title	Contact	CGA	Completion Date	Amount
CGA1801	Weather stations network	Jeff Hamblin	Lower Namoi	30/06/18	\$8,000
CGA1802	In-field trials: dryland cotton vs sorghum on various row configurations	Joanna Weier	Mungindi Water Users'	30/06/18	\$10,000
CGA1803	Implementing innovative irrigation - Central QLD style	Aaron Kiely	Central Highlands CG&IA	9/11/17	\$2,716
CGA1804	Implementing innovative irrigation and 2018 sticky beak tour	Simon Green	Dawson Valley	30/01/18	\$3,500
CGA1805	Spreader Workshop	Andrew Watson	Upper Namoi	30/06/18	\$7,800
CGA1806	Silverleaf whitefly and mealybug meetings	Janelle Montgomery	Gwydir Valley	1/03/18	\$20,000
CGA1807	Grower development and extension programs	Emma Ayliffe	Southern Valleys	28/02/18	\$10,000
CGA1808	Local weather data access	Bron Christensen	Dawson Valley	30/03/18	\$6,000
CGA1809	Weather station network and upgrades	Cate Wild	Macintyre Valley	24/06/18	\$7,496
CGA1810	Improving skills and capacity of Darling Downs growers	Adam McVeigh	Darling Downs	30/06/18	\$6,720
2018-19 Grassroots Grants (TOTAL \$93,755)					
Reference	Project Title	Contact	CGA	Completion Date	Amount
CGA1901	Investigating efficiency and productivity of on-farm irrigation water use	Alexandra Dalton	Upper Namoi	29/03/19	\$5,000

CGA1902	Field assessment of the impact of late season thrip infestations	Lou Gall	Gwydir Valley	31/05/19	\$10,000
CGA1903	Grower development and extension: off-target spray drift mitigation	John Durham	Southern Valleys	30/09/19	\$10,000
CGA1904	Assessing black root rot treatments in the Lachlan & Murrumbidgee	John Durham	Southern Valleys	31/08/19	\$8,800
CGA1905	Development tour for Northern Australian cotton	Andrew Phillip	NT Farmers Association	3/03/19	\$10,000
CGA1906	Weather station network	Aaron Kiely	Central Highlands CG&IA	1/06/19	\$10,000
CGA1907	Improving drought resilience	Bernie Bierhoff	Walgett	30/04/19	\$10,000
CGA1908	Improving skills and capacity of growers	Georgie Krieg	Darling Downs	30/06/19	\$7,220
CGA1909	Spray drift workshops	Richard Avendano	Upper Namoi	11/12/18	\$1,000
CGA1910	On-farm evaluation of the IoT technologies	Amanda Thomas	Macquarie	15/06/19	\$11,735
CGA1911	Additional Support - Fullbright Scholarship to study Verticillium wilt	Karen Kirkby & Jeff Hamblin	Lower Namoi	30/06/20	\$10,000
2019-20 Grassroots Grants (TOTAL \$44,990)					
Reference	Project Title	Contact	CGA	Completion Date	Amount
CGA2001	Weather stations	Jeff Hamblin	Lower Namoi	30/06/20	\$5,980
CGA2002	On-farm evaluation of pumping telemetry	Amanda Thomas	Macquarie	30/06/20	\$7,000
CGA2003	Climate change: Planting times, pests and spray drift	Alex Macintosh	Walgett	30/06/20	\$6,000
CGA2004	Demonstration farm of IoT and LoRaWAN technology	Andrew McKay	St George	15/06/20	\$6,600
CGA2005	Fostering crop RD&E collaboration and leadership in Northern Aust	Debra Pearce	Northern Australia Crop Alliance	30/04/20	\$10,000
CGA2006	Impact of last irrigations on profit and quality in the MIA region	Emma Ayliffe	Southern Valleys	30/08/20	\$9,410
2020-21 Grassroots Grants (TOTAL \$56,100)					
Reference	Project Title	Contact	CGA	Completion Date	Amount
CGA2101	NT industry development - Northern crop production growers guide	Simone Cameron	NT Farmers Association	12/12/21	\$10,000
CGA2102	Digitally enabled cotton farms	Amanda Thomas	Macquarie	30/06/22	\$8,100
CGA2103	Digitally ready cotton farmers	Iva Quarisa	Southern Valleys	31/05/21	\$10,000
CGA2104	Central Highlands tour of St George agriculture	Aaron Kiely	Central Highlands CG&IA	30/06/21	\$8,500
CGA2105	Ord & Northern Territory crop development tour	Hollie Gall	Macintyre Valley	30/06/22	\$10,000
CGA2106	Increasing cotton grower skills, and awareness	Georgie Krieg	Darling Downs	31/12/21	\$9,500
2021-22 Grassroots Grants (TOTAL \$39,590)					
Reference	Project Title	Contact	CGA	Completion Date	Amount
CGA2201	Weather station: Cuttabri	Jeff Hamblin	Lower Namoi	30/06/22	\$2,990
CGA2202	Reducing nitrogen losses early season	Peter Birch	Gwydir Valley	30/06/22	\$10,000
CGA2203	The connectivity challenge	Amanda Thomas	Macquarie	1/12/22	\$10,000
CGA2204	Coleambally community demo farm: soil health	James Kanaley	Southern Valleys	1/12/22	\$9,600
CGA2205	Central Highlands weather station network	Danni Ingram	Central Highlands CG&IA	30/04/22	\$7,000
2022-23 Grassroots Grants (TOTAL \$13,300)					
Reference	Project Title	Contact	CGA	Completion Date	Amount
NUAG 10440	Young Cotton Grower Tour	Jacob Thuijs	Nutrien Ag	2/03/23	\$3,300
FNQS 10534	FNQ Sustainable Cropping Group grower study tour	Sarah Stevens	FNQ Sustainable Cropping Inc	30/06/23	\$10,000
2023-24 Grassroots Grants (TOTAL \$36,538)					
Reference	Project Title	Contact	CGA	Completion Date	Amount
CHCGIA 11070	Central Highlands weather network	Alexandria Galea	Central Highlands CG&IA	30/11/24	\$8,513
MACC 10598	Growers sharing experiences on irrigation hard setting red soils to maximise productivity and profitability	Amanda Thomas	Macquarie CGA	30/06/24	\$10,000
CI 10863	Travel to Irricom and CSD field day February 2024	Kieran O'Keeffe	Southern Valleys	30/06/24	\$8,025
DDGCI 11031	DDCGI Weather station upgrade	Daniel Skerman	Darling Downs	30/06/24	\$10,000
2024-25 Grassroots Grants (TOTAL \$23,352)					
Reference	Project Title	Contact	CGA	Completion Date	Amount
CHCGIA 11495	Grower group tour of NT	Robyn Lehmann	Central Highlands CG&IA	30/06/25	\$10,000
MACC 11546	Grower development and extension: Macquarie Cotton Growers tour to Dirranbandi	Alexandra Dalton	Macquarie CGA	31/03/25	\$6,300
DDGCI 11657	DDCGI Weather Station Upgrade	Daniel Skerman	Darling Downs	31/12/25	\$6,200
CI 10863	Travel to Irricom and CSD field day February 2024	Kieran O'Keeffe	Southern Valleys	31/12/24	\$852
2025-26 Grassroots Grants (TOTAL \$40,000)					
Reference	Project Title	Contact	CGA	Completion Date	Amount
UNCGA 12215	Grassroot Grants: Camp Cotton – Grower Networking Lunch & Transportation - an opportunity for the local cotton community to meet with global and Australian customers	Janelle Montgomery	Upper Namoi	10/04/26	\$10,000
LNCGA 12135	Grassroot Grants: Camp Cotton – Grower Networking Lunch & Transportation - an opportunity for the local cotton community to meet with global and Australian customers	Janelle Montgomery	Lower Namoi	10/04/26	\$20,000
CHCGIA 12585	Central Highlands (CH) Irrigated Cropping Tour (Make the most of our water)	Janelle Montgomery	Central Highlands (CH)	30/06/26	\$10,000
Total:				Number of projects	102
				Investment	\$890,237.00

For more information:

For more, please contact:

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