



## Getting research and development working for farmers

Supporting an innovative agriculture sector with access to advanced technology and the latest farming practices

Research, development and extension (RD&E) advances the way we do things, and underpins farmers' ability to produce and export high-quality products.

Australia's RD&E system is world class and a successful Government/industry partnership. Together, Government and industry are projected by the Council of Rural Research and Development Corporations Chairs to fund around \$5.5 billion in rural RD&E over the next 10 years.

The Government also supports six agricultural Cooperative Research Centres (CRCs), a new CRC on Developing Northern Australia, as well as the CSIRO's extensive agricultural research. This investment needs to work for our farmers and deliver real returns at the farm gate.

### Rural R&D for Profit

More research needs to target cross-sector issues including, for example, wild dog

control, water, climate change, IT improvements and labour supply.

That is why the Government established the \$100 million **Rural R&D for Profit programme**. It is funding collaborative research projects to deliver cutting edge technologies, applied research and on-farm adoption.

There was huge demand in the first round of the programme. In response, the Government is providing **an additional \$100 million to extend the programme from 2018–19 until 2021–22**. This means that over the course of 8 years we will invest \$200 million in longer-term collaborative projects that deliver real returns for farmers.

Round one of the Rural R&D for Profit programme saw up to \$26.7 million in funding allocated to 12 projects.

Projects funded under round one included:

- smarter irrigation for profit;
- stimulating private sector extension in Australia agriculture to increase returns from R&D;
- fast-tracking and maximising the long-lasting benefits of weed biological control for farm productivity; and
- a profitable future for Australian agriculture: bio refineries for higher-value animal feeds, chemicals and fuels.

Round Two is expected to open for applications shortly.

## Setting the right priorities

The Commonwealth has established the following priority areas to ensure R&D is in areas that will keep our farmers at the cutting edge of productivity growth:

- **advanced technology:** to enhance innovation through new technologies such as robotics, digitisation, 'big data', genetics and high-tech precision agriculture;
- **biosecurity:** to improve understanding of pests and diseases, minimise biosecurity threats and improve market access for primary producers;
- **soil, water and managing natural resources:** to efficiently manage inputs, sustainably develop new production areas and improve resilience to climate change; and
- **adoption of R&D:** to flexibly deliver extension services for primary producers and recognise the growing role of private service delivery.

## Continued commitment to industry levies

The Government's main contribution to RD&E is through matching industry levies. In 2014–15 this contribution was worth approximately \$250 million.

The Government is extending its levy matching by providing an additional:

- **\$1.4 million to match new industry levies** in the export fodder and tea tree oil industries; and
- **\$1.2 million** to boost funding for the Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation **to help small agricultural industries with RD&E.**

## More Efficiency

The Government is **reducing Research and Development Corporation (RDC) administration costs**, leaving more money for RD&E.

The Government will require RDCs to place more focus on:

- the extension and adoption of R&D outcomes by farmers; and
- increasing co-ordination of back-office functions (for example through shared human resources and accounting services).

### Further Information

- [agwhitepaper.agriculture.gov.au](http://agwhitepaper.agriculture.gov.au)