

Cotton Innovation Network

Understanding our investment in research

The Cotton Innovation Network coordinates the cotton industry's research and development activity and ensures a collaborative and cohesive approach to achieving our industry's long term goals.

One of the major activities conducted by the Network since its inception in 2012 is a project to map the industry's research, development and extension (RD&E) activities, and to review these over time against the five research priority areas outlined in the Cotton Sector RD&E Strategy:

1. Plant varieties
2. Farming systems
3. People and communities
4. Products and markets
5. Development and delivery

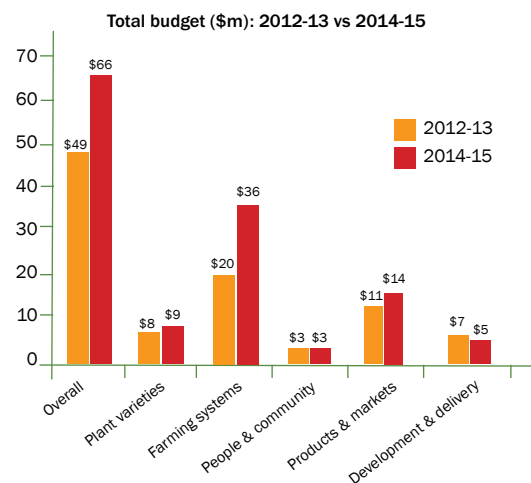
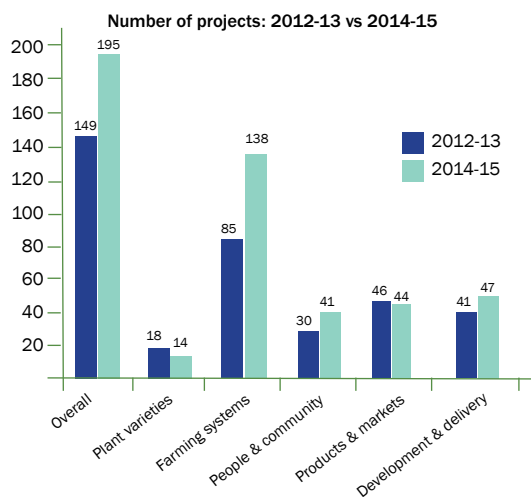
Under this project, the Network has conducted two studies. The first, conducted in 2012, mapped the RD&E activities of the cotton industry for the 2012-13 year. This study was a significant undertaking that collated the investment, activities, purpose and timeline of every research project in progress at that time - a total of 149 projects with a combined value of \$49 million - providing a benchmark for the industry.

The second, conducted in 2015, built on the first study in identifying where cotton RD&E projects and investments were focused, and comparing how investments have changed between 2012-13 and 2014-15.

The findings: Study #1 - Comparison of 2012-13 and 2014-15

The research identified that:

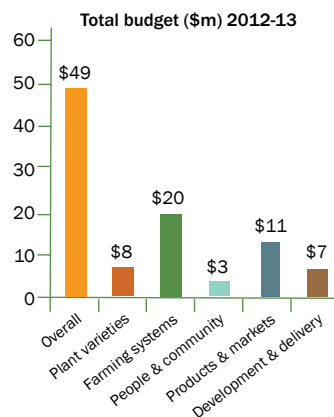
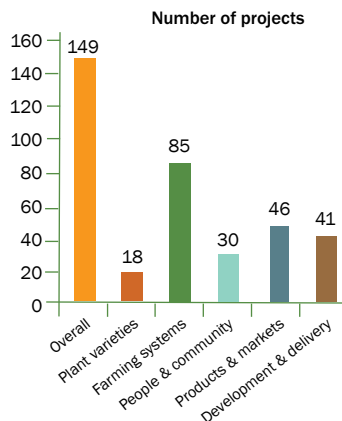
- The number of research projects was 149 in 2012-13, and 195 in 2014-15 - a commensurate 31 percent increase.
- The total investment in RD&E was \$49 million in 2012-13, and \$66 million in 2014-15 - a 34 percent increase.
- Investment in three of the five priority areas (Plant varieties; farming systems; products and markets) has increased.
- Investment in longer-term benefits (those projects that will have impact in greater than five years) has increased from 30 to 39 percent of the total budget.
- CRDC remains the largest partner in research projects, with a growing involvement from tertiary institutions, and other partners (including Cotton Australia, other RDCs, the NSW Government).
- The majority of projects remain focused on one priority area, with an increase in projects crossing over two priority areas.
- There has been a significant increase in the number of projects linking to other sectoral and cross-sectoral strategies.
- Half of the projects will be reviewed or end in more than three years, compared to a third in 2012-13.



The findings: Study #2 - 2012-13 investment

The research identified that:

- Every member of the Cotton Innovation Network is involved in research and development activity and they both lead and partner on projects.
- The bulk of the research is being conducted in integrated farming systems including plant varieties (\$28 million is invested across two priority areas).
- All member organisations are involved in farming systems research so it is important that all organisations collaborate in this area.
- Two thirds of the investment focused on efforts that would provide benefits within five years. Almost 50 percent of the projects were scheduled to conclude or be reviewed at the end of the 2012-13 and a further 20 percent would be reviewed or conclude at the end of 2013-14.
- Almost 50 percent of project expenditure is relevant to more than one priority area.



Where to from here?

This project has helped the Network to identify where the RD&E effort is going, who is involved, what greater collaboration is required, and when the research will provide benefits to the industry. This information will provide a foundation for the Network to provide strategic oversight of the industry's RD&E, by determining what is required for each priority area into the future, and where greater collaboration would be beneficial to the industry.

For further information:

For further information on the Network, please visit www.crdc.com.au/cotton-innovation-network-0 or contact the Network secretariat (CRDC) on 02 6792 4088.

