2025–26 investment and impact

2025-26 SNAPSHOT

CRDC

THIRD YEAR OF

Clever Cotton

Working towards the goal of adding $1 billion in economic value to the Australian cotton industry over future investment cycles.

$29.004 million

CRDC's expenditure in delivering year three of Clever Cotton on behalf of cotton growers and the Australian Government.

Of this, $23.607 million was directly invested in RD&E projects in collaboration with our research partners.

280
RD&E projects

113
research partners

3 pillars:
Paddock, People, Planet

INVESTMENTS, INNOVATIONS, IMPACT

11 innovation projects
received almost $550,000 in combined feasibility funding through the CRDC Innovation Call to investigate solutions for future industry challenges.

20 low-emissions
demonstration sites established by research partners through the Cotton Low Emissions Intensity Farming Systems (Cotton LEIFS) project.

17 projects
progressed by the ACDC to strengthen disease detection, monitoring and management.

8.8
out of 10 stakeholder trust rating for CRDC.

Source: 2025 CRDC Stakeholder Survey

3.19
out of 5 community trust in the Australian cotton industry, up from 3.12 in 2023.

Source: Community Trust in the Australian Cotton Industry 2025 Survey

3 industry
micro-credentials developed through the CRDC Cotton Course, creating new learning pathways for growers, advisers and industry participants.

17
undergraduate, postgraduate and early-career researchers supported through CRDC capacity-building programs.

INVESTMENTS, INNOVATIONS, IMPACT

$1.72 billion
the potential value identified through CRDC investments between 2025 and 2028, driven by improvements in yield and the management of irrigation, disease, nitrogen and insect pests.

87%

87 per cent
of growers received information or had contact with the CottonInfo team.

Source: 2025 CRDC Grower Survey

97%

97 per cent
of CottonInfo participants reported a positive change in knowledge, attitudes, skills, aspirations or confidence.

Source: CottonInfo M&E July 2026

52%

52 per cent
of growers contributed to industry RD&E through trials, monitoring activities, data collection or industry projects.

Source: 2025 CRDC Grower Survey

37%

37 per cent
of growers hosted research trials on-farm.

Source: 2025 CRDC Grower Survey

64%

64 per cent
of growers have a farm biosecurity plan, an increase of 12 per cent since 2023.

Source: 2025 CRDC Grower Survey

71%

71 per cent
of stakeholders rate CRDC's engagement as better or much better than comparable organisations.

Source: 2025 CRDC Stakeholder Survey