Expression of Interest EOI

Part 1 – General Details

EOI ID	838
EOI Title	25-26 Grassroots Grants
Type of Research	Knowledge Creation
Expected Start Date	01/07/2025
Expected End Date	30/06/2026
CRDC Pillar	2. People
CRDC Theme	2.3 Adoption and Impact
CRDC Outcome	2.3.1 By 2026, research outcomes are integrated into on-farm practice change at a faster rate
EOI Close Date	Extension approved until 31/03/2026

Part 2 – Expression of Interest Requirements

Issue to be addressed and project description:

The CRDC Grassroots Grants program encourages Cotton Grower Associations (CGAs) to apply for funding to support capacity building projects in their region.

Up to $10,000 in funding is available for CGAs to help fund a project aimed at increasing the engagement of growers in the industry, solving specific regional issues and improving their skills, knowledge base and networks.

Since the Grassroots Grants program commenced in 2011, it has provided over $850,237 in support to 99 projects across the cotton growing valleys. Click here for a full list of Grassroots Grant projects to date, or here to watch a video on one of the projects that has received Grassroots Grant funding : the purchase of weather stations to help growers in the Walgett area better predict weather events.

Applications open annually on 1 July, and close on 31 December *(this EOI was approved for an extension until 31 March 2026)*. Applications are reviewed on a first-come first-serve basis during this period and once the funds have been fully allocated, no further projects will be approved.

The Grassroots Grant program is managed by CRDC. Interested applicants must read the program's Guidelines for Applications. Applications should include a timeline, accurate costings, the likely learning outcomes, and the overall benefits of the project for the industry.

Expected project outputs and outcomes:

A report is to be provided to CRDC on completion of your CGA's project.

- The project report needs to cover the following aspects:
1. A brief description of project objectives.
2. What were the: a) major finding or outcomes under each objective

   b) other highlights

   3. Are there any potential areas worth following up as a result of this project?

   4. How do you intend to share the knowledge you have gained with other people in the cotton industry? *(CRDC can assist with this)*

Project Investment:

Year	2025/26			TOTAL
Indicative budget (up to)	$10,000.00			$10,000.00

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.

CRDC Grassroots Grants: Guidelines for applicants

Overview
The Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC) Grassroots Grant program is designed to stimulate grower-led projects that build the capacity of industry members and improve the communities in which they operate.

The purpose of this funding is to help build and enhance skills and knowledge, and encourage sustainable financial, environmental and social growth across the cotton industry.

More specifically the grant program seeks projects that:
1. Increase networking between growers, consultants and researchers
2. Grow the skills, knowledge base, social base or economic well-being of cotton growers and their communities
3. Support, upskill and engage with new growers to the industry
4. Strengthen collaboration across communities, across industries and regions
5. Help with ground truthing and testing of research and development findings
6. Help improve the levels of adoption of research and development outcomes
7. Help improve the levels of adoption of *my*BMP.

Projects that involve the broader community (such as partnering with schools etc) and those where growers learn from other growers are encouraged.

Projects providing training workshops for existing staff, where there is a regulatory requirement for this training, may be supported for the running costs of the training (venue, catering etc) but will not receive a subsidy for the training component.

Projects that have a financial (or in-kind) contribution from partners are looked upon favourably.

Eligible applicants
Grassroots Grants funding is available to Cotton Grower Associations (CGAs). Cotton growers are unable to apply as individuals: instead, they are encouraged to discuss their idea with their local CGA.

Eligible projects
A broad range of projects are encouraged, and a list of previously successful projects can be found at the end of this document. This list is intended to provide an indication of the types of projects that are supported. You are encouraged to discuss your potential project with a CRDC Innovation Broker or your local CottonInfo REO prior to submitting your application.

Funding levels
The maximum level of funding available is $10,000, however projects that demonstrate collaboration with more than one partner or that cover a wider geographical area may be considered for higher levels of funding.

GST
The GST on funding applications will be held as follows:

If your CGA is registered for GST:
If approved, funding will be provided from CRDC to cover costs but not to cover any GST.

How this works: the CGA pays the full amount on an invoice (including the GST). The CGA then claims the GST amount paid back from the ATO. Funds from CRDC will have covered the balance remaining on the invoice.

If your CGA is NOT registered for GST:

If approved, funding will be provided from CRDC for the full invoice value.

How this works: if an invoice is received with a GST amount included in the total, CRDC will have covered the full cost and CRDC will claim the GST amount back from the ATO.

Timing
Applications open annually on **1 July** and close on the set date or once funds have been fully allocated. If approved, the projects are expected to be implemented during the second half of the financial year.

There is a limited pool of funding available, so applicants are encouraged to apply as early in the funding period as possible. Projects may not be funded if: they do not meet the eligibility criteria; the funds have been exhausted for the year; or at the discretion of CRDC.

Reporting
Below is a table indicating the standard reporting process:

Action	Timeframe
Submit grant application.	From 1 July.
CRDC reviews grant application and notifies applicant if successful.	Within three weeks of submitting the application.
CRDC provides successful applicants with the Grassroots Grant funding agreement. The agreement must be signed and returned to CRDC by the applicant, along with a tax invoice to CRDC for payment #1 (as outlined in contract).	Within three weeks of submitting the application.
Applicant receives funding agreed under payment #1.	Within three weeks of returning the agreement signed and tax invoice.
Project to be completed.	By 30 June the following year
Applicant to provide a final report and financial report	On completion of the milestones agreed to in the contract. Please note: if you have any issue in meeting the reporting due date, please contact CRDC to request an extension.
Applicant to issue a final tax invoice to CRDC for the remaining agreed funding (payment #2, as outlined in contract).	On approval of the final report by CRDC.

Previously funded projects
A list of all previously funded projects is available over the page.

For more information:
For more, please contact:
CRDC Innovation Administration
P: 02 6792 4088
E: research@crdc.com.au

CRDC user guide:
Submitting a Grassroots Grant application using Fluxx

In September 2022, CRDC has transitioned to a new grant management system – Fluxx (crdc.fluxx.io). If you wish to submit an application to CRDC, you will need to utilise the new Fluxx system.

Please note: to complete an application within Fluxx, your organisation and administrator will also need to be registered in the system. All users connected to your organisation in Fluxx will appear in the dropdown options. If they do not appear in the list, please contact them to register for Fluxx.

To Register
1. To register to as a Fluxx user, visit crdc.fluxx.io and select 'Grantee User Registration'.
2. Review the terms, conditions and privacy policy and if you accept tick 'Agree'.
3. Complete the registration form and 'submit request'.

To access the Expressions of Interest (EOIs)
1. Once you have logged into Fluxx, on the left hand side you will find a navigation panel.
2. Under 'Expressions of Interest', you will find the EOIs open for funding applications.
3. On the EOI you are interested in, select 'Apply for Funding'. This will open up the application form for you to complete.

To submit an application
Included in this user guide are the fields that are required to be completed in Fluxx. *Please note: Word document application forms will no longer be accepted by CRDC. The attached form is to help you draft the text for pasting into Fluxx only.*

Where there are system limitations that prevent the ability to include graphs, pictures or background documents, attachments can be uploaded with your application. Please note you must abide by character limits where applicable. Attachments cannot be used as workarounds for the text fields in Fluxx.

Please ensure you select 'save and continue' as you progress, as the system does not auto-save.

Grant Application
General Details
The EOI details will prefill in Fluxx.

Your Organisation Reference ID	*If required*		
Proposed Project Title: (Max 80 characters)			
Funding Start Date:	Click or tap to enter a date.	**Funding End Date:**	Click or tap to enter a date.
Organisation			
Project Manager			
Administrator			
Project Location	*City, suburb, town or postcode where the project is based*		
Project Geo Location	*Longitude and Latitude of where the project or field trials will be based. To find this, look up the location on Google Maps, right click on the location to show coordinates and left click to copy.*		
CRDC Cash Requested	*This will autofill on completing the Budget*		
Project Summary	*For example: what does the project seek to achieve; what issues or problems will it overcome; what innovation will it address; how will the cotton industry benefit?*		

Description of Project

Background:	Briefly describe the background to the project.
Project Activities/itinerary:	Outline the activities that are planned and how these activities align CRDC's Strategic Objectives. If travel is involved, provide an itinerary, even if exact dates are not available. If you are attending a conference, please give details.
Project Partners:	List key project participants, including the Contact Person, their relevant experience if applicable (eg. Cotton Australia staff, community organisations, local government, engineering consultant; marketing expert etc.):
Partners' Contributions:	List the cash and/or in-kind (non-cash) contributions committed from each of the partners:
Date CGA Approved the application:	
Describe how the CGA decided to support this project:	

Project Outputs

Outputs are tangible things produced by the project within the project timeframe, for example knowledge, skills, processes, practices, products and/or technologies.

The project outputs will be:	List the proposed publication activities.

Project Outcomes

Outcomes are economic, environmental, and/or social benefits that the industry or community will receive. In other words, what do you expect success to look like? (Note: Not all projects will have Outcomes in each category.) These outcomes may be longer term than the project period.

The economic benefits will be:	List the proposed publication activities.
The environmental benefits will be:	
The social benefits will be:	

Proposed adoption/communication actions

The results will be communicated/promoted in the cotton industry by means of:	Describe how the results will be communicated to and used by others in the industry.

Budget

Funder	Details	Amount
Choose an item.		$
Choose an item.		$
Choose an item.		$
Choose an item.		$
Choose an item.		$
Choose an item.		$

Documents

Upload quotes, co-funding support letters, and other documents that support the information provided in this request, can include picture

CRDC user guide:
Submitting a Grassroots Grant report using Fluxx

In September 2022, CRDC has transitioned to a new grant management system – Fluxx (crdc.fluxx.io). To submit a Report, you will need to utilise the new Fluxx system.

To action the report
1. Log into crdc.fluxx.io
2. On the navigation panel on the left hand side under Reports, it will have a list of all your project reports. Your upcoming report/s will be listed under 'Due in the next ninety days'. Click on the report and then Edit at the top right of screen.
3. Once you have completed the report, click Save and Close and then click Submit Report to Grantee Admin. Click on refresh and you will see the report status updated.
4. The report will workflow to your administrator for review. They can either return the report to draft for edits or submit to CRDC.

This document is a word version of the fields that are required to be completed in Fluxx. *This form is to help you draft the text for pasting into Fluxx only.*

Where there are system limitations that prevent the ability to include graphs, pictures or background documents, attachments can be uploaded with your report. Please note you must abide by character limits where applicable. Attachments cannot be used as workarounds for the text fields in Fluxx.

Please ensure you select 'save and continue' as you progress, as the system does not auto-save.

If you have any queries, please contact CRDC Project Administration on 02 6792 4088 or research@crdc.com.au.

Extension Requests
If you need to request an extension to the submission date of your report this must be done from the Fluxx portal on the report you are requesting an extension for. Click on the report and select edit. Complete the Extension Request with justification, Save and Close and Submit Extension Request.

Final Report

Project Summary
Comment on the purpose of the project and what the project achieved. (Suitable for Public Release by CRDC). Maximum 2,000 characters.
Outcomes & Impact for Industry
Describe the project outputs and outcomes including any variation away from the original application plan. Describe the benefits and impact for industry from the project. For capital items describe how they are supporting your research.
M&E Outcomes: Number of outcomes achieved
People Connections

Provide details of the people and organisation the project connected with. Attendees at workshops, conferences, field days, organisations visited. Attach supporting information e.g. feedback forms, attendance lists.
M&E People: Number of connections achieved
Learnings *What are the key learnings from the project and feedback from participants? What planned actions will you or your organisation take to follow on from the project? (may include communications with industry, keeping in touch with participants, future projects-next steps)*
M&E Learnings: Number of learnings and planned actions from the project
Do you have recommendations for CRDC (eg RD&E gaps)?
Comment on project expenditure, noting any changes from the application budget.

Expenditure incurred

Date	Description of expenditure	Amount Ex-GST	GST	Total
		$	$	$
		$	$	$
		$	$	$

Documents
Please attach any/all relevant documents to the "Report Attachments" section. Supporting evidence including photos, data, trial reports, etc for each milestone or the project in general.