



Rural Research and Development for Profit Keeping Australian farmers at the cutting edge



Partnerships

- Rural Research and Development Corporations (RDCs) will be principal recipients of the funding, but other partners will be sought.
- In order to qualify for the funding, project proposals will need to demonstrate collaboration between rural RDCs and partners such as other funding agencies, experienced researchers, producer groups, and the private sector.

Driving productivity

- There is a strong link between R&D and agricultural productivity growth.
- The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences (ABARES) estimates that for each dollar the government invests in agricultural R&D, farmers generate \$12 within 10 years.

Priorities for funding

- Early in the next financial year, the government will release program guidelines including details on research priorities for the first round of funding, and how to apply.
- Broadly, research must be practical, accessible to primary producers, and aimed at lifting farm productivity and profitability.
- In assessing grant proposals, the program will aim for a balance between R&D needs in the areas of production, natural resource pressures, supply chains, and how to drive better returns for the sector.
- The *Agricultural Competitiveness White Paper*, due to be released at the end of 2014, will inform research and funding priorities for subsequent funding rounds.

Key points

1. The Australian Government is providing \$100 million over four years beginning 2014-15, for a competitive grants program to deliver cutting-edge technology and applied research, with an emphasis on making the results accessible to Australia's primary producers.
2. This new funding is in addition to the current funding for Rural Research and Development Corporations (RDCs).
3. The new funding represents about a 10 per cent increase to the Australian Government's commitment to funding for the RDCs.
4. The Department of Agriculture will administer the program, which will be a competitive grants program.

