Australian cotton growers pay a compulsory research levy of $2.25 per bale of cotton they produce.

$24m

In 2014/15, cotton growers and the Australian Government co-invested $24 million through the CRDC into 260 research projects.

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Research is grouped into 5 key program areas: farmers, industry, customers, people and performance.

CO²

Research and development is actively seeking ways to further improve water, fertiliser and energy use efficiency at the same time as reducing greenhouse emissions for Australian cotton growers.

- Australian cotton growers, in partnership with the Australian Government, have been long-term investors in research that has delivered significant benefits to growers, rural communities and Australia.
- Australian cotton growers pay a compulsory research levy of $2.25 per bale of cotton they produce which is matched by the Australian Government up to a limit of 0.5 per cent of the gross value of production.
- This research investment underpins the Australian cotton industry, and in the industry being recognised as world leaders in the adoption of technology, innovation, environmental management and the production of high-quality, high-yielding cotton.
- The Australian cotton industry has identified the connections between improved productivity, natural resource management and addressing climate change. For example, research and development is actively seeking ways to further improve water, fertiliser and energy use efficiency at the same time as reducing greenhouse emissions.
- The cotton industry’s research and development programs aim to increase crop yields, improve fibre quality, improve irrigation and water use efficiency, promote productivity and innovation, provide research information on salinity, river health, and groundwater and enhance biodiversity. More recently are efforts to better understand the requirements of our international markets and to attract and retain a skilled workforce.
- The research effort also supports the development of sustainable production practices, the stewardship of agricultural chemicals and biotechnology and the industry’s environmental management program, myBMP (Best Management Practices).
The Cotton Research and Development Corporation (CRDC) works with industry to invest in research, development and extension for a more profitable, sustainable and dynamic cotton industry. In 2014/15, cotton growers and the Australian Government co-invested $24 million through the CRDC into 260 research projects over 5 program areas: farmers, industry, customers, people and performance.

The Commonwealth Scientific & Industrial Research Organisation’s (CSIRO’s) cotton breeding program has played a major role in ensuring Australian cotton growers remain world leaders in cotton yield and quality.

New varieties are researched and tested to CSIRO to increase yield, use less water, reduce the need for chemicals and be resistant to diseases.

The cotton research and development effort is largely driven by cotton growers. Cotton Australia – via grower advisory panels – provides advice to the CRDC on research projects funded by the cotton research and development levy so that outcomes are relevant and practical at farm and industry level.

The industry’s CottonInfo program was launched in 2012 to connect growers with research, bringing cotton growers, consultants, and agronomists the latest news, information, events and research to achieve best practice in the industry. The program is a joint venture between Cotton Australia, the CRDC and Cotton Seed Distributors.

Over the life of the Cotton Catchment Communities Cooperative Research Centre (operational from 2006 to 2012), 428 research and extension projects involving over 1000 people were managed. (source: Weaving a Future, Seven Years of Cooperative Research Report, 2012)

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