Rural Water Use Efficiency – Irrigation Futures: 2017-18

Cotton Industry Small Grants Training Program

Information and Application Pack
**Background:** Cotton Australia has been funded by the Queensland Government through its Rural Water Use Efficiency – Irrigation Futures: 2017-18 initiative to deliver a Small Grants and Training program. The project must be completed by June 2018. However, Cotton Australia would like to have all projects approved during the current calendar year.

**Program Summary:**

Cotton Australia will reimburse successful applicants up to 50% (capped at a $10,000) of the cost of investing in water use efficiency technology.

To be eligible applicants will have to be prepared to:

- Invest in commercially proven water use efficiency technology
- Be registered in the Cotton Australia myBMP program
- Have completed all Level One and Level Two practices in the myBMP Water Management module
- Undertake targeted training, delivered by CottonInfo, on the optimal use of the chosen technology
- Assist Cotton Australia, if required, in preparing a written case study on their adoption of the chosen technology

**The Detail**

The program will operate like this:

- Cotton Australia will communicate to growers and call for applications for small grants (as described above) to help purchase WUE technology and services.

- The project will be open to cotton growers in the Central Highlands, Callide Valley, Dawson Valley, Burnett Region, Darling Downs, Lower Balonne and Border River Areas.

- Eligible technology will include, but is not limited to the following:

  - **Automated furrow irrigation systems**
  - **Enhanced crop water use monitoring systems (including use of drones and crop canopy sensors)**
  - **Use of EM 38 technology to assess distribution uniformity of moisture applied**
  - **Weather based scheduling and benchmarking technology (irriSAT)**
  - **Soil moisture monitoring tools**
  - **Irrimate surface irrigation assessment**
Applications will be assessed for eligibility by a small management committee made up of representatives of Cotton Australia and Cotton Info. While the project does not intend to be prescriptive about acceptable technologies/services, it will reserve the right to decline an application if it is deemed the technology/service lacks merit. In selecting projects the management committee will consider when the project application was received, the appropriateness and diversity of technology applied for and geographical spread.

On initial acceptance of the application Cotton Australia’s Regional Managers will work with the applicants to ensure they have completed to the Level 1 and Level 2 requirements the myBMP Water Management Module (Currently accredited myBMP growers are eligible to apply).

On completion of the module, and the provision of the necessary invoices and proof of purchase, the grower will be paid the grant.

A CottonInfo team member will ensure the grower receives the appropriate short training to ensure optimum benefit.

The technology is to be installed as soon-as-possible, but no later than December 31, 2017.

On completion of all of the above, a brief report on each successful applicant will be finalized, with this information consolidated as the basis of an overall project report.

Three to five successful projects will be selected and be the subject of a brief case study report, to be prepared by Cotton Australia, with the assistance of the successful applicant.

For more information on this project please contact Michael Murray – 0427 707868 or michaelm@cotton.org.au.

Closing Date for Applications: First round applications close on September 30, 2017, however, growers are encouraged to apply as-soon-as possible as the grant funding is limited, and one of the assessment criteria will be date that the application was received.

If the funding is not fully expended the project reserves the right to open a second round.
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- Please note that while there is no formal cut-off date for applications they will be assessed on a rolling basis.

Application Form

Grower Name:………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Business Trading Name:…………………………………………………………………………………………

ABN:………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Address:………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Email:………………………………………………………………………………………………………………

Phone Contact:……………………………………………………………………………………………………
Proposed Technology Purchase

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Technology or service proposed to be purchased</th>
<th>Total Cost</th>
<th>Grant funding sought (Maximum of 50% capped at $10,000)</th>
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In applying for this grant I/We agree to:

- Purchasing, installing and using the approved Water Use Efficiency technology or service.
- Completing to the satisfaction of Cotton Australia all Level 1 and Level 2 checklist items in the myBMP Water Management Module
- Undertaking appropriate training in the technology as directed by CottonInfo
- Assisting, if required, Cotton Australia to prepare a Case Study on the value of the adoption of the approved Water Use Efficiency technology.

Signature of Applicant/s: …………………………………………………………………………

Date: ………………………………………………………………………………………………

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If the funding is not fully expended the project reserves the right to open a second round.

Please email applications to: michaelm@cotton.org.au

This project is supported by Cotton Australia and CottonInfo through funding from the Queensland Government’s Rural Water Use Efficiency - Irrigation Futures: 2017-18 program.