



Grower Group Research & Development Grants Program

Round 1 Expressions of interest submission guidelines

Round 1 Expressions of interest are now open for the Grower Group Research and Development (R&D) Grants Program.

The Grower Group R&D Grants Program is a major component of the Agricultural Sciences R&D Fund Royalties for Regions program, managed by the Department of Agriculture and Food, Western Australia (DAFWA).

The Grower Group R&D Grants Program will invest up to \$17.4 million, over two rounds of funding.

The goal of the Grower Group R&D Grants Program is to better equip WA's agrifood businesses to:

- improve productivity
- intensify and expand operations
- access capital
- pursue new market opportunities
- make more informed investment decisions
- increase jobs in regional Western Australia.

Before submitting your application, please read the 'Round 1 Information toolkit for applicants' which provides additional details, including what to expect if your application is successful. The toolkit can be found at the Agricultural Sciences R&D Fund webpage (<https://www.agric.wa.gov.au/agriculture-sciences-research-and-development-fund>).

Round 1 Expressions of interest close 12noon (WST) 2 December, 2015

Round 1 program priorities

Up to \$7 million will be invested in Round 1.

Individual grants are available between \$20 000 - \$500 000.

R&D activities supported by the Grower Group R&D Grants Program goes beyond on-farm productivity research to include supply and value chain improvement, and export market development.

The Grower Group R&D Grants Program priorities are:

- accessing new markets
- improving the efficiency and alignment of businesses working together in supply and value chains
- value adding to existing agrifood products
- developing new market-focussed products
- alternative business structures
- accessing capital investment
- improving on-farm productivity of market-preferred products.

Essential criteria

- Only WA-based, incorporated grower groups, and not-for profit, farmer-driven organisations with an Australian Business Number (ABN) are eligible to apply for a grant.
- Commercial companies, non-agricultural not-for profits and public sector research institutions are **not** eligible to apply, but their participation in collaborative projects led by eligible organisations is strongly encouraged.
- Successful applicants with their collaborators will be required to make a total co-contribution (cash and/or in-kind), of at least 25% of the value of any grant obtained from the Grower Group R&D Grants Program.
- Applied market, product, industry, business model and investment R&D relevant to broad acre cropping and livestock, irrigated agriculture, horticulture, pastoral production, aquaculture and food manufacturing sectors are within the scope of the Grower Group R&D Grants Program.
- Non-agricultural related industries and wild capture fishing are not within the scope.
- It is essential that proposed projects align with the focus and scope of the Program; are based on sound evidence and information; are well designed and technically feasible; and applicants and their selected collaborators have the capacity and capability to undertake the project successfully.
- Eligible applicants who do not have the necessary skills in-house should collaborate with suitable organisations (eg public sector research institutions or professional service providers) to ensure they meet these requirements.

Desirable criteria

Proposed projects will be viewed more favourably if the applicants can demonstrate:

- The innovativeness of the project outcome and the extent to which this may assist businesses to establish a distinct advantage in the market.
- The potential value enabled by the proposed project.
- The extent to which collaborators towards the consumer end of the value chain are integrated into the project.
- The budget represents value for money.
- The percentage of cash in the total co-contribution from the applicant and collaborators.

Application and selection processes

A two-stage selection process will be used for Round 1:

- **Stage 1 Expression of Interest** – an expert selection panel will assess each application and recommend a shortlist of projects to progress to Stage 2.
- **Stage 2 Full Project Proposal** – shortlisted applicants will be invited to submit a detailed proposal for assessment by the expert selection panel.

Applications from eligible organisations must be submitted online using the SmartyGrants application form: www.agric.smartygrants.com.au

All applicants will be notified by email that their application has been received.

To be considered for Round 1 funding, completed applications must be submitted before **12noon (WST) on Wednesday, 2 December, 2015**

Successful projects will be selected through a competitive merit-based process.

DAFWA will appoint an expert selection panel (3-5 members) to provide industry, technical and scientific expertise in the assessment of applications and make recommendations to the Agricultural Sciences R&D Fund Steering Committee.

Projects may be funded wholly or partially, and may have conditions or recommendations attached which need to be addressed before funding is granted.

Decisions on funding are final. All applicants will be notified in writing of the outcome of their application, and provided with feedback.

Further information

Additional information can be found on the Department of Agriculture and Food Western Australia website at agric.wa.gov.au/royalties-regions

Alternatively, contact **Verity Todd**, DAFWA

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