



MEDIA RELEASE

CALL FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS Applications open for a new round of COGGO funding

Thursday, 18 May 2017

A call for a new round of research projects to benefit West Australian grain growers has been made by the Council of Grain Grower Organisations (COGGO).

“Western Australian grain growers are battling a difficult start to the 2017 crop year which highlights the need for ongoing research to help growers deal with variable seasonal conditions” according to COGGO Chairman Chris Wilkins.

“We look forward to receiving some fresh innovative ideas for start-up R&D projects from group and individuals in the WA grains research community”, he said.

COGGO remains committed to funding local research and development projects to improve the profitable growing of grain crops in Western Australia.

Projects funding ranges between \$20,000 up to \$50,000 per annum for a one or two year project, and is allocated on a competitive basis to projects which offer clear benefits to Western Australian grain growers as a result of that research.

“Increasingly, farmers are having to adapt to their farming techniques, not only to variable seasonal conditions, but as market signals dictate changes in the mix of the grain crops they grow and new problems emerge in terms of managing pests, weeds and diseases,” Mr Wilkins said.

“Technology solutions are also at the top of the list for ways to improve grain farm profitability”.

Nearly \$300,000 in funding was made available by COGGO in 2017 for four projects. Topics tackled in these projects included evaluating techniques to incorporate lime into acidic soils, cost effective mechanical management of crop residues and the evaluation of multispectral sensors on drones, analytics programs and mapping software. This brings a total allocation of \$2.3 million to fund 44 projects since the COGGO research Fund program began five years ago.

“Historically we have received applications from grower groups, private companies and universities for projects that tackle growing conditions unique to regions within the West Australian grainbelt”, said Mr Wilkins.

“We need to see these continue to come through for funding as we know they can make significant differences to grain growers in the areas they focus on and often because of their specific and regional nature, they do not attract funding from elsewhere,” he said.



The Council of Grain Growers Organisations Limited (COGGO) established the COGGO Research Fund to invest in innovative research and development projects across the whole supply chain that can demonstrate a direct benefit to Western Australian grain growers. It is focused on funding catalytic or start up “proof of concept” research that can lead to further development using GRDC or commercial funding.

The COGGO Research Fund is financed through a voluntary levy collected from Western Australian grain growers who are members of COGGO with the cooperation of grain acquisition and marketing companies. All WA grain growers are eligible to become members of COGGO.

The Grain Industry Association of Western Australia (GIWA) Inc is administering the COGGO Research Fund on behalf of COGGO. Further information and an “Expression of Interest” application form is available from the GIWA website at www.giwa.org.au/coggoresearchfund or by telephoning (08) 6262 2128.

The closing date for initial Expressions of Interest is Friday, 30 June 2017. Those applicants who have their Expression of Interest accepted will then be invited to submit a Project proposal.

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COGGO is a public company formed by West Australian grain growers concerned about inadequate resources being allocated to research in the State. It is a general R&D funder which facilitates grants to applicants who can demonstrate innovative and productive ideas that will benefit the general grain industry, or for geographic or crop specific sectors of that industry. Grain grower members contribute annually to this fund.