



MEDIA RELEASE

APPLICATIONS INVITED FOR NEW ROUND OF COGGO FUNDING

7 May 2015

As part of a continuing effort to address productivity gains in farming, The Council of Grain Growers Organisations (COGGO) has called for projects that will directly benefit West Australian grain growers.

“West Australians are among the best dry-land grain growers globally,” according to COGGO Chairman Mr Chris Wilkins.

“There is a lot of talk about the international growth of agriculture as world disposable income grows, but for our grain growers to have a role in supplying that future demand, they must stay focused on productivity to ensure our exports are competitive,” he said.

“We recognised the need for local grower driven, on-farm research and set up the COGGO Research Fund to invest in innovative research and development projects across the whole grain growing supply chain,” according to Mr Wilkins.

“It is critical, especially in times of tighter government funding, that growers continue to support COGGO’s funding research.

“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.

“I urge as many farmers as possible to commit to the levy; this is possibly one of the best investments you as a grain grower can make,” Mr Wilkins said.

To gain COGGO funding, researchers need to demonstrate a direct benefit to Western Australian grain growers including a focus on funding catalytic or start up “proof of concept” projects that can lead to further development using GRDC or commercial funding.

Funded projects have been initiated by farm grower groups, universities, the WA Department of Agriculture and Food and private companies.

“The COGGO Board has been very impressed with the range and quality of applications received in the first three years of operating the fund,” said Mr Wilkins.

To date 28 projects have been funded to a total of over \$1.4 million. Successful projects have covered crop breeding, the role of fallow in cropping systems, summer weed control, insect control, grower group projects, and the technologies to assist farm productivity including the development of 'Apps' and web based decision tools.

In total there have been 94 project proposals submitted so there is a success rate of nearly 1 in 3 projects selected for funding.

“Applications from research organisations, private companies and grower groups are welcome for the 2016 COGGO Research Fund round, however they must be able to demonstrate a clear benefit to the WA grower,” said Mr Wilkins.

COGGO anticipates funding projects in the range of \$20,000 to \$50,000 per annum and with a project life of one or two years.

The following projects have been funded for commencement in 2015 and provide a guide to what types of projects have qualified for support from the COGGO Research Fund:

- Australian Grown Superfood’s project *Taking Quinoa from a subsistence crop to a broad acre crop for the WA wheatbelt*
- The Fitzgerald Biosphere Group (FBG) project *Frost management options to increase wheat grain quality and yield and how these strategies impact on soil erosion along the south coast of WA*
- The West Midlands Group (WMG) project *Using farmer strips and electronic sensors to diagnose crop growth limitations*
- South East Premium Wheat Growers Association (SEPWA) project *Farm scale Wi-Fi - the future of data for WA grain farmers*
- Coorow Seeds & Agrarian project *Investigate the performance of an alternative oilseed crop, Camelina, in the Mid-West region. Assess the influences of environment and nutrition on the oil content, protein, oil quality and Omega 3 and erucic acid levels*
- Murdoch University, *Refining remote sensing technologies to give real-time estimation of crop nitrogen status for application in precision agriculture*
- North East Farming Futures Group (NEFFG) project *On farm pH adjustment trials*
- Facey Group (FG), *Incorporating lime to depth on duplex wheatbelt soils*
- Mingenew Irwin Group (MIG), *Measuring, monitoring and understanding soil water holding properties to increase risk management, grower confidence and grain yield improvement, resulting in increasing returns to grain growers*

The Grains Industry Association of WA (GIWA) is administering the COGGO Research Fund on behalf of COGGO. Further information and project proposal application forms are available from the GIWA website - www.giwa.org.au/coggoresearchfund or by telephoning 08 6262 2128.

The closing date for the current round is Friday 24th July 2015.

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