



August (Winter) 2010, 3 pages

## RIRDC INVITES APPLICATIONS FOR THE 2011-2012 FUNDING ROUND

Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

### Applying for Funding

Applications for RIRDC scholarships and funding for research proposals in 2011-12 will be open from 1 August 2010.

RIRDC Research Priorities for 2011-12 can be found at <http://www.rirdc.gov.au/researchers/research-priorities-2011-12.cfm> or go to the RIRDC Homepage and follow "For Researchers" links.

RIRDC Programs are:

New Plant Products, New Animal Products (includes Deer, Buffalo and Kangaroo); Essential Oils and Plant Extracts; Rare Natural Animal Fibres; Wildflowers and Native Plants; Tea Tree Oil; Bioenergy, Bioproducts and Energy; Olive; Chicken Meat; Honeybee; Rice; Horses; Fodder Crops; Pasture Seeds; Organics; Global Challenges; Dynamic Rural Communities; Collaborative Partnership for Farming, Fishing Health and Safety.

The timeline for the application round is listed below. The Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation invests in the knowledge needs of our three portfolio areas:

- New rural industries;
- Specific established rural industries; and
- Cross-sectoral national rural issues.

Our investments are driven by Five-Year R&D plans which address the needs of each industry and ensure our priorities are industry and government driven. Overall, our aim is for a more profitable, dynamic and sustainable rural sector.

If you think your organization can help address the needs of our programs as outlined in the current research priorities, we would welcome your application for funding.

RIRDC welcomes proposals that will meet the specific objectives, or a number of objectives, as outlined in the research priorities and in more detail in program Five-Year Plans.

We also welcome and encourage your collaboration with other research providers to build the critical research mass necessary to meet our objectives.

In planning and submitting proposals for RIRDC-funded projects prospective researchers need to familiarize themselves with the application procedure, the Corporation's over-arching goals and strategies, the goals and strategies of the relevant R&D programs and the specific priorities for R&D for the year for which the proposal is being submitted.

A booklet, "Doing Business With RIRDC", outlines this process.

## Planning a successful application

The following factors will be taken into consideration in assessing research proposals:

- Corporate strategies and outcomes, including the Australian Government's Research and Development Priorities, in the RIRDC
  - Corporate Plan 2007-2012
  - Program strategies and outcomes in the sector five-year plans
  - Relevant research priorities for that year
  - Demonstrated industry support

## Key Dates

Action	Date
RIRDC R&D priorities advised for the next round from R&D plans	1 August 2010
Preliminary Research Proposals due	22 September 2010
Result of PRP Assessments announcements	24 November 2010
Invitation to submit full proposals	9 February 2011
Preliminary advice on full proposals	17 May 2011
Contracts entered into (First payment on contract execution)	29 July 2011
Annual progress reports	As specified in contract
Final report	As specified in contract

## Clarity

RIRDC's business with research providers is facilitated by a web-based project management system called Clarity. This system is used to manage all stages of project administration.

Preliminary research proposals should be completed online using Clarity.

To set up a secure account before submitting a proposal, please contact the RIRDC helpdesk for a username and password.

Email: [helpdesk@rirdc.gov.au](mailto:helpdesk@rirdc.gov.au) or Ph: 02 6271 4100

There is a sample of the Preliminary Research Proposal and Budget sections to be completed when applying for research funding on the web. Please note that this section is to be completed online in Clarity.

Detailed user guides and telephone support are also available.

Clarity Entry Point – <http://research.rirdc.gov.au/>

## Checklist for proposals

Before applying for RIRDC R&D funding please:

- Ensure your proposal is aligned with current research priorities
- Check key dates for proposal submission
- Ensure proposals contain a clear pathway for adoption – see RIRDC Adoption Principles
- Follow the Clarity application instructions
- Public sector research must apply through the administration office

## Checklist for projects

- Signed research agreement – stored in Clarity
- Due dates for project reports – notification through Clarity
- Project progress reports – submitted through Clarity
- Final report template and RIRDC Style Guide
- Final approval and acceptance of report by RIRDC – notification through Clarity

## **Scholarships and travel/conference funding**

Information on scholarships and travel/conference funding can also be found on the RIRDC website in “Doing Business With RIRDC”.

Before applying for RIRDC travel applications and/or scholarships:

- Ensure your applications are submitted through Clarity (please see page 11 of the “Doing Business With RIRDC” booklet to gain a Clarity username and password.

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