



Australian Government



Cotton Research and Development Corporation

Grains Research and Development Corporation

Fisheries Research and Development Corporation

Land & Water Australia

Rural Industries Research and Development Corporation

Sugar Research and Development Corporation

Grape and Wine Research and Development Corporation

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Rural R,D&E investment benefits rural sector, wider society

The most comprehensive evaluation of rural research and development ever undertaken in Australia has found an average return of \$11 for every one dollar invested by the country's 15 Rural Research and Development Corporations (RDCs)*.

The evaluation, from the Council of Rural Research and Development Corporations' Chairs (CRRDCC), looked at a sample of 32 *randomly selected* projects from a pool of 600 and found a minimum *average* return of \$11 was achieved for each dollar invested in 2007 dollars.

"This report shows the Government's rural R&D model is exceeding expectations and delivering benefits not only to the primary industries sector, but also producing other very positive social and environmental benefits way beyond the scope of the original investment," said Enzo Allara, Chair of the CRRDCC.

The evaluation also found that just 36 *highly successful* projects returned \$10.5 billion in quantified benefits, made up of \$5.5 billion in direct benefits to the rural sector and \$5 billion in spillover benefits to the wider community.

The \$5.5 billion in direct benefits from these 36 projects - just 6 per cent of the total project pool - more than pays for the RDCs' entire \$4.5 billion investment in the program's 600 projects over the past 10 years.

The report, ***Measuring economic, environmental and social returns from Rural Research and Development Corporations' investment***, provides the first year of results from an ongoing evaluation of RDC-managed investments.

"While there are significant environmental and social benefits, because of the difficulty in measuring these effects, these benefits are often undervalued.

"However, over the course of this evaluation process, we were able to quantify a number of public benefits including an investment in food safety research led by Meat & Livestock Australia which resulted in \$503 million in social and related-industry benefits."

RDCs invest around \$540 million a year, comprising \$325 million from industry and \$215 million from the Australian Government.



It is anticipated that this study will make an important contribution to the Government's contemplation of the *National Innovation System Review*.

A copy of the full report is available at <http://www.ruralrdc.com.au/>

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* The Council of Rural Research and Development Corporations' Chairs, which carried out this evaluation, represents 15 RDCs