



The Hon. Barnaby Joyce MP

MEDIA RELEASE

Deputy Prime Minister Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources

27 July 2017

Helping Aussie farmers access safe and effective agvet chemicals

- Grants are now available to improve farmers' access to safe and effective agvet chemicals.
- Up to \$1.78 million is available to rural research and development corporations as part of the Coalition Government's four-year \$8 million investment.
- Third round of programme closes on 31 October 2017.

The Coalition Government has announced a third round of up to \$1.78 million to improve access to safe and effective agricultural and veterinary (agvet) chemicals, part of a four-year \$8 million investment.

Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Agriculture and Water Resources, Barnaby Joyce, said the grants programme, opening on 1 August 2017 to research and development corporations, will help Australian farmers access new products and expand uses for existing chemicals.

Applicants may seek up to \$100 000 per grant for projects aimed at including a new use on the label of a chemical product, and up to \$50 000 per grant for projects aimed at broadening or gaining new access to a use through an Australian Pesticides and Veterinary Medicines Authority (APVMA) minor use permit.

"Australia is a relatively small market, which can sometimes mean that the cost involved in registering an agvet chemical can sometimes make the venture uncommercial," Minister Joyce said.

"This grant funding will make Australian producers more competitive by improving their ability to access new and innovative agvet chemicals that may be already available to their international competitors.

"Agvet chemicals are essential to control the spread of pests and diseases amongst our crops and livestock and to boost our productivity by reducing the damage that pests and disease cause to agricultural produce.

"Ensuring farmers have access to agvet chemicals that are both effective and safe is crucial to our agricultural industries, the community and the environment."

Previous rounds of the grants programme the Coalition Government has provided \$4.18 million for 100 projects to Grains Research & Development Corporation, Rural Industries Research & Development Corporation, Horticulture Innovation Australia Limited and Dairy Australia Limited.

Applications for the third round of assistance grants open on 1 August 2017 and close 2pm Tuesday 31 October 2017.

For more information on the grants, visit: agriculture.gov.au/ag-farm-food/ag-vet-chemicals/improved-access-agvet-chemicals/agvet-assistance-grants.

Fast facts

- **Farmers in emerging industries will benefit from gaining access to much needed chemicals to fight pests and diseases.**
- **New chemicals and new chemical uses provide many benefits to farmers and the environment over older chemicals**
- **The Australian Bureau of Agricultural and Resource Economics and Sciences estimate land managers spend an average of \$19,620 a year on managing weeds, pests and diseases**
- **Weeds, pests and diseases cost the Australian economy more than \$4.5 billion per year in production losses**