



## Budget Recommendations | Fact Sheet 6

# Research and Innovation

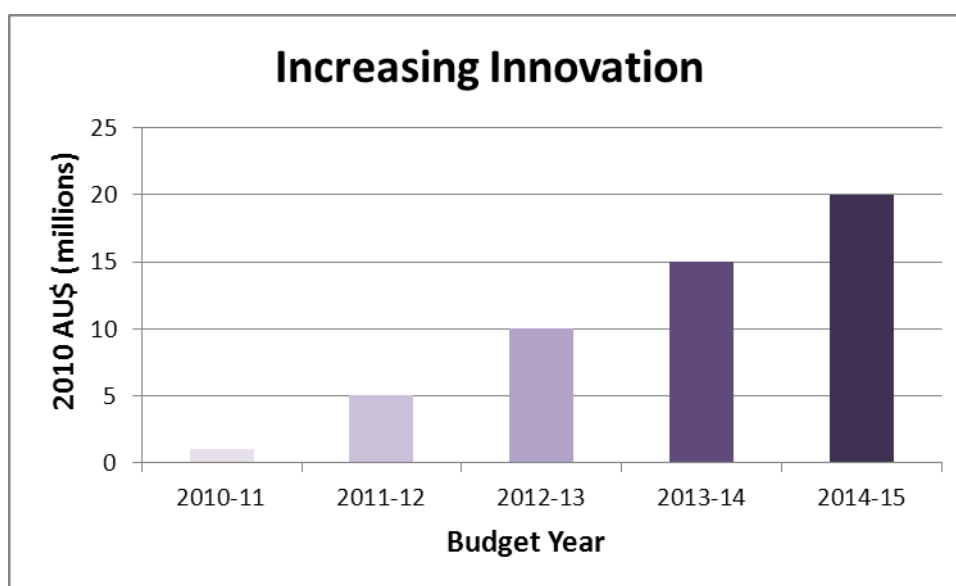
### Recommendation 6.1 – Increasing the Innovations Fund

ACFID recommends that an increased funding be allocated to the AusAID Innovations Fund, reaching \$20 million in 2014-15, with a \$5 million allocation in 2011-12.

The Innovations Fund was established in 2009 to support new and innovative approaches to community development including evaluation, scale-up and replication of successful programs. The initial \$500,000 allocation was oversubscribed and AusAID acknowledged that there were a range of impressive projects over and above the allocation. Additional funding had to be sought to support all of the eligible and innovative ideas.

In 2010-11 the Innovations Fund allocation was doubled to \$1 million in recognition of the success of the pilot program. Further funds are required to support innovative community-based approaches to development and poverty reduction. An increase would also allow for learning and evaluation of effective projects to be shared and scaled-up where appropriate.

Budget Year	Innovations Fund Spend (AU \$m current)
2010-11	1
2011-12	5
2012-13	10
2013-14	15
2014-15	20



## Recommendation 6.2 – A Climate Change Action Research Fund

Climate change research funding is required by developing countries to support the capacity of their institutions. Creative research partnerships are needed to ensure that the research is action oriented, including through partnering with NGOs, community based organisations, service delivery agencies and others that have practical experience in the field.

**ACFID recommends that \$60 million be allocated over 3 years for a Climate Change Action Research Fund, beginning in 2011-12 with a \$20 million allocation.<sup>1</sup>**

This research initiative should support action research partnerships between academic institutions and implementing agencies, such as NGOs, service delivery organisations and women's organisations as well as national universities and research institutions that will work towards finding locally relevant and appropriate solutions to climate change.

Funded research should be targeted at analysis and interpretation of areas such as:

- The practical use of climate data;
- Policy and governance needs for implementing national climate initiatives;
- Sector analysis and planning for climate change adaptation responses;
- The impacts of climate change on gender; and,
- The opportunities and risks presented by climate change.



PHOTO KATE HOLT/AFRICA PRACTICE/CARE OF AUSAID

A Ugandan man tends to his garden in Arokwo Village, Kapchorwa, Uganda in 2009. Landcare provide training and support to farmers on Mount Elgon to help combat the effects of soil erosion and environmental damage, with support from Australia.

<sup>1</sup> This initiative could be incorporated into a scale up of existing AusAID programs including the existing Community-based Adaptation Activity Grants component of the International Climate Change Adaptation Initiative.