

Timeline: Developing the data platform

Follow the journey toward building a smarter, more secure way to manage data across the Australian cotton industry. From early ideas to major milestones, this timeline highlights the progress so far and what's to come. We're working towards full platform functionality by 2028 to deliver benefits to growers and the entire supply chain.

2016-2019: Laying the foundations

- CRDC leads the Accelerating Precision Agriculture to Decision Agriculture (P2D) project under the Australian Government's Rural R&D for Profit program.
 - Collaboration among all 15 RDCs.
 - Recognised the value and benefit of digital agriculture, the need for improved access and interoperability of data, a platform for data, and improved trust re data privacy.
 - Recommendations included developing a digital agriculture strategy, creating a data management code of practice (the catalyst for the NFF Farm Data Code), and digitising and automating data collection.
- Cotton growers and stakeholders highlight the need for a simpler and more efficient way to manage data to future proof the industry.

2020-2022: Strategy and planning

- Based on the findings and recommendations from the P2D project, a cross-sectoral steering group led by CRDC and comprising cotton industry bodies, growers, gins, merchants, classers and researchers met to start developing a digital strategy for the Australian cotton industry. Its purpose is to prepare cotton for a digital future and to enable the industry to share, coordinate and utilise its data.
- Business case developed to demonstrate the need for a central data platform and consistent data standards.
- Data capacity audits conducted to assess data use and management across the supply chain, identifying gaps and opportunities.
- Governance framework established to manage data privacy, security, and ownership, aligned with the NFF Farm Data Code.
- CRDC appointed as the lead for the Australian Cotton Industry Data Platform project.

2023-2024: Strategy finalised, and development begins

- Digital Strategy finalised and agreed by the industry.
- NFF Farm Data Code adopted as the standard for managing data.
- Platform specifications defined by CRDC for platform development.
- Data governance processes introduced to manage and secure data.
- Data standardisation priorities identified to improve and align industry data.

2025-2027: Build and test

- Platform partners selected to design and build the platform.
- CRDC staff in place to manage platform build



- Platform development and testing and piloting progress in stages.
- Services begin rolling out through the platform to the industry.
- Ongoing work to standardise and align data across the supply chain.

2028: Launch

- Full operational launch of the platform, delivering a complete range of services to the industry.