

Timeline: Developing the Data Platform

Follow the journey of the Australian Cotton Industry Data Platform, from the first research and industry collaboration through to its ongoing development. From early ideas to major milestones, this timeline highlights the work undertaken to establish the foundations for the Platform, progress so far, and what's to come. The Platform is being developed through a deliberate and staged approach, with CRDC working towards 2028 to deliver its initial vision.

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. - Recognition of the value of digital agriculture, the need for improved access and interoperability of data, central data infrastructure, and improved trust in data privacy. - Recommendations for 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 to: - prepare cotton for a digital future - 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 requirements and priorities identified to support future development. • Data governance processes established to manage and secure data. • Data standardisation priorities identified to improve and align industry data.

2025-2027: Establishing foundations for delivery	• Platform partners engaged. • CRDC capability established. • Governance, implementation and delivery arrangements developed and refined. • Industry engagement and collaboration ongoing. • Priority applications identified and explored. • Platform build activities progressed through a deliberate and staged approach. • Ongoing work to standardise and align data across the supply chain.
2028: Delivery of the Platform	• CRDC is working towards 2028 to deliver the initial vision for the Platform, building on the foundations established through industry collaboration, governance development and implementation planning.