



National Agricultural Traceability Grants Program – Regulatory Technology Research and Insights Grant Round: National Farmers’ Federation (NFF) grantee summary

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Project outcomes

The overall purpose of the project is to undertake a review of existing industry initiatives to promote traceability Regulatory Technology (RegTech) and develop a roadmap to drive future uptake. This was achieved via the undertaking of an extensive desktop review and industry engagement.

Key findings from desktop review

Existing industry traceability programs and initiatives to drive uptake of traceability RegTech:

- Commodity peak bodies together with Research and Development Corporations, and research partners have actively led RegTech projects, primarily as pilot testing in a defined supply chain.
- Various commodities are at different stages of the development curve depending on market requirements and domestic circumstances.
- In some commodities, particularly bulk handled products, a compelling value proposition needs articulating.
- Many traceability RegTech initiatives from industry are proof of concepts, commercially available for implementation at a business level, but not fully developed at an industry wide or cross-industry scale.

Assessment of barriers to adoption and uptake of industry-led traceability RegTech:

- Lack of leadership across the supply chain on consistent approaches, particularly in distributed ledgers.
- General awareness of the utility of traceability RegTech at both a producer and industry-wide level must be addressed whilst also developing the technical solutions.
- Sufficient technological maturity will need to be addressed, this often occurs in tandem with policy maturity, with some industries further along the curve than others.
- A strong data governance framework will be a prerequisite to building the confidence of producers adopting RegTech and overcoming the barrier around mistrust of how their data is handled.
- Cross-commodity RegTech faces a range of barriers to uptake and is further behind in the technology and policy maturity than individual commodities.

Outcomes of industry engagement

Industry engagement was undertaken to test the findings of the desktop review. It identified the following:

- 3 desktop review recommendations consistent with findings of the industry consultation.
- 2 desktop review recommendations partially consistent with industry consultation.
- 1 desktop review recommendation not identified through industry consultation.
- 5 additional recommendations identified through industry consultation.

Final recommendations

On consolidation of findings from the desktop review and consultation, the revised project recommendations were to:

- determine where industry led RegTech schemes may add value to traceability
- ensure that initiatives for Traceability RegTech are aligned with, and add value, to the broader context of farming businesses and supply chains
- undertake a cost benefit assessment of the implementation of consistent location identifiers for plant-based agriculture
- facilitate an informed review of the role, advantages, disadvantages, costs and risks of adopting common standards as a basis for traceability systems for domestic and international trade
- ensure data and certification systems are trusted and simplified for producers
- provide industry leadership to ensure that producers retain control and ownership of their data
- create industry-led working group to progress the recommendations
- build knowledge and capacity in industry and industry organisations
- consolidate and communicate the traceability RegTech learnings across the traceability grants pilot projects
- ensure farm inputs suppliers be responsible for providing information and monitoring in a transparent manner to feed into traceability RegTech
- research to understand the influence of traceability on the supply and demand dynamics and retailer control in fresh produce supply chains.

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the continuous connection of First Nations Traditional Owners and Custodians to the lands, seas and waters of Australia. We recognise their care for and cultivation of Country. We pay respect to Elders past and present, and recognise their knowledge and contribution to the productivity, innovation and sustainability of Australia’s agriculture, fisheries and forestry industries.

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