

**CENTRE FOR ERESEARCH AND DIGITAL INNOVATION**  
**PLIS: AgReFed FAIR Assessment Tool – Data Collection**

<b>PROJECT TITLE:</b>	<b>Agricultural Research Federation: A platform for the transformation of agricultural research</b>
<b>PRINCIPAL RESEARCHER:</b>	<b>Assoc Prof Helen Thompson</b>
<b>OTHER RESEARCHERS:</b>	<b>Dr Megan Wong, Dr Alison Ollerenshaw, Jennifer Corbett, Richard Archer, Dr Christiane Bahlo</b>

## Overview

Thank you for your interest in this research, which is being conducted by Assoc Prof Helen Thompson, Dr Megan Wong, Dr Alison Ollerenshaw, Jennifer Corbett, Richard Archer, and Dr Christiane Bahlo at the Centre for eResearch and Digital Innovation (CeRDI), Federation University Australia. Federation University is leading the next level of technology developments for the Agricultural Research Federation (AgReFed; [www.agrefed.org.au](http://www.agrefed.org.au)) platform. The 'platform' refers to the data sharing technologies and capabilities that will be adopted and adapted to enable Australian researchers, industry and government to better share and use agricultural data. The latest platform developments are being funded by the Australian Research Data Commons (ARDC).

Research is being conducted alongside this project to a) inform the planning and development of the platform, and b) (following platform implementation) assess how and in what ways the platform is facilitating data access, data sharing and data reuse for the agriculture industry.

*The following pages provide you with further information about the project. Please take the time to read this information carefully. You may ask questions of the researchers about anything you do not understand or want to know more about.*

## What is this research about?

The overall aim of this research is to identify and document the data needs of agricultural researchers across universities, government and industry. The research will explore the insights and experiences with collecting and accessing agricultural data, including how and what data you access, and what opportunities, trends and barriers exist for data sharing.

As researchers and organisations commence involvement in the AgReFed platform project, collating data about users, usage and information associated with the *AgReFed FAIR assessment tool* will be collated and assessed. This will complement and inform the research through practical application and the FAIRness (Findable, Accessible, Interoperation and Reusable) of the data.

This data will assist in identifying and assessing how the Tool and its capabilities are being used to support FAIR data assessments in agricultural research. For more information about FAIR data principles visit: <https://www.agrefed.org.au/FAIRAssessment>

## What is involved in this research?

The user registration data and the information you share to the 14 questions about the FAIRness of your data will be used by the researchers to assess the level of FAIRness of the data submitted by users of the Tool. This data will complement the existing research being conducted through interviews to inform the planning and development of AgReFed and to assess what ways the platform is facilitating data access, data sharing and data reuse for the agriculture industry. The consolidation of the data collected through the AgReFed

FAIR assessment tool may be used for research reporting purposes. All data for reporting purposes will be anonymised.

Registration as a user of the Tool includes collecting the following requisite information from users: name (optional), organisation, role and email address. Upon registration you will be asked 14 questions about the FAIRness of your data. The data and information you provide will be collated and reviewed as part of this research. This information may be used by the CeRDI researchers to assess the Tool usage, including information about user's organisation and role, to better understand how it is being used and by whom, and how FAIR the tested digital resources are, and whether the tool is useful in improving their FAIRness

### **How will my information be used?**

All data and information collected as part of this research will only be used to identify the level of FAIRness. The data will not be used to identify individuals. The researchers are the only people who will have access to this data at any time following data collection and analysis. However, the researchers may collate the data and insights about the datasets may be used to support their research findings and may be used for reporting purposes. Data will have all potential identifiers removed to ensure participant anonymity and confidentiality.

The sample size for this research may be small. There is a remote possibility that your data could be identifiable. To minimise this, we will de-identify and aggregate data prior to analysis. While every effort will be made to present the data so that it does not directly identify you/your organisation, the uniqueness of the sector and the potentially low participant numbers and data sets included on the Tool may mean that it is possible for someone familiar with the sector to identify participants and/or their organisations.

Your participation in this research is assumed once you register as a user of the Tool. If you do not wish for you or your data to be included in this research please email the principal researcher directly, prior to registering your usage of the Tool.

### **How will the data be used?**

The data and information collected through the Tool will be used by the researchers to understand users and usage of the AgReFed FAIR data tool. The data will assist in informing whether the tool is meeting the data and research needs of users. A report from this research will be prepared and made publicly available via the AgReFed website. This report might be used by project partners and the platform funding organisation, ARDC. Please be aware that by participating in this research, your de-identified data may be used to inform future research around agriculture data. Scholarly outputs such as research reports, journal publication, conference papers and presentations, and industry-based stories and communications, for general publication, may also be developed from this research.

This project has received approval from the Federation University Australia's Human Research Ethics Committee (Project number: A21-046), in accordance with the guidelines provided by the National Health and Medical Research Council for research involving humans.

### **How is data stored?**

All named researchers for this study have experience in conducting research and abiding by the ethical principles in conducting this research. Data confidentiality will be maintained. The disseminated results will not include information that identifies any participants (unless specific permission has been obtained). All data for this study will be retained, securely, for a minimum of five years.

### **Further information**

It is unlikely that you will experience any distress by participating in this research. However, in the unlikely event that you are concerned about this research we advise that you follow the protocols for accessing

professional support through your workplace or contact a medical health practitioner. You may also wish to contact Beyond Blue (1300 224 636) and/or Lifeline (131 114) for services providing expert advice, support and information to deal with personal challenges and stress.

For further details about this research, please contact the principal researcher below, or any of the researchers listed on this plain language information statement (PLIS) available via the homepage for the Tool.

If you have any questions, or you would like further information regarding the project titled *Agricultural Research Federation: A platform for the transformation of agricultural research*, please contact the Principal Researcher, Assoc Prof Helen Thompson of the Centre for eResearch and Digital Innovation: **EMAIL:** [h.thompson@federation.edu.au](mailto:h.thompson@federation.edu.au) **PH:** 03 5327 9418

Should you (i.e. the participant) have any concerns about the ethical conduct of this research project, please contact the Federation University Coordinator Research Ethics, Research Services, Federation University Australia,

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