



Trust
Alliance
New Zealand

Annual General Report 2022

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Trust Alliance NZ Inc. | www.trustalliance.co.nz

Trust Alliance NZ Inc. - 2022 Chair's Annual Report

TANZ has been established as a non-profit membership organisation to provide a networking and collaboration vehicle to tackle common problems in data management and sharing. A key goal of the Trust Alliance is to enable new Zealand's agricultural sector, farmers, growers, stakeholders and its entire food and fibre value chain to capture data once, share in a permissioned and trustworthy way, and protect always. The reason why this is important is not necessarily immediately obvious. The key reason is that there is now a requirement for evidence to provide across the agriculture sector to ensure regulatory compliance, evidence of sustainable production, food safety, international market access, financing etc.



There is a great deal of scrutiny on the agricultural sector. People are concerned that food they consume is good for them and is it good for the environment. They want assurances and want they poof. Unfortunately, the agricultural sector in New Zealand is challenged by having information systems that are not enabling this evidence to be collected in a coherent manner and there are massive inefficiencies. There is a problem on farm in New Zealand because farming in New Zealand uses multiple systems and they don't talk to each other efficiently. Data exists in silos and it takes time and money to share. What is needed is a universal protocol that enables data to be managed by the participants in the sector to preserve and enhance the global and domestic competitiveness of New Zealand's primary sector.

We are doing this by investigating, developing, and providing tools and protocols to enable decentralised data sharing to occur. It is being done ensuring international best practice and standards are deployed to give scalability, flexibility and portability.

TANZ was formed in August 2022 and we have taken the approach of co-design and co-development as a core value. A technology stack with open-source tools and protocols is being developed and will be provided at a minimum viable product (MVP) stage. We wish to ensure neutrality and collaboration so the framework can be widely used and trust. The overall aim is to provide the primary and related industries with a digital identity framework enabling data sovereignty for the members and contributing parties.

The following has been achieved to date:

- Four workstreams with active contribution from the members
- Solid collaboration with government departments (MPI, MfE, DIA and Regional Councils)
- Enhanced membership networking and collaboration
- Build an international solid technology provider ecosystem
- Secure funding prepared
- Build strategic partnerships with AgriTech NZ, NZCoop and DIF

I would like to thank the Board of TANZ for their efforts to date and to all members and stakeholders who have given their time and energy.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Claridge'.

Chris Claridge

Chair

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2022 Executive Director's Annual Report

It has been a very busy period since my appointment as the Executive Director TANZ in January 2022.

With our small team and the limited resources we have achieved a lot already and are on an exciting journey together with our members. The technology is rapidly evolving, and the opportunities to utilise it are increasing day by day. With the support and the engagement of the government, our partner network, the TANZ Board and the passion of our members we will make it happen.



We have achieved some notable activities to work towards our main objectives since forming in August 2021

1. **Secured MPI Sustainable Food, Fibre Future Fund Project.** Digital farm environment plans as an exemplar for data sharing in a new way. The stakeholder engagement research program was executed with over 85 industry experts. Clear messages that came through clearly from the research were that **duplication of work due to lack of data interoperability** causes significant frustration, however **control and ownership of data by farmers will be critical to facilitate safe farm data sharing**. Based on what we heard from farmers and stakeholders the next stage in our endeavour is to develop a framework to show how farm data can be captured once, shared when required and always protected. We are inviting for feedback on a proposed concept at the Primary Industries Summit in July '22.
2. **Digital Identity Scoping project – Phase I.** After an analytical research phase and a scoping project with Potatoes NZ as an exemplar, a final report for Digital Identity in the agriculture space has finalised. This report sets out the process and findings performed to scope the requirements for an effective cross-sector data sharing and management solution. Having analysed market drivers and technical options it was determined that a key foundational requirement for enabling truly secure data sharing and interoperability is the establishment of a secure digital identity mechanism. A proof-of-concept has been developed with a set of tools and protocols to create decentralised Identifiers (DID's) and Verifiable Credentials (VCs) as a prerequisite for Digital Identity for individuals. Outcomes are:
 - a. Developed a clear technology roadmap and governance stack, backed with an international benchmark input and standards.
 - b. Produced a white paper of the decentralised identity approach for feedback.
 - c. Performed a technical demonstration of the decentralised technology to show how to create a decentralised identifier, a verifiable credential and demonstrate the successful verification process.
 - d. Developed and created a video for the non-technical audience to demonstrate how the technology can be deployed, how DID's and verifiable credentials can be utilised, and discuss how the primary sector can benefit from it.

A new proposal for a funding of Phase II is submitted to MPI.

3. **Workstreams (Provenance, IoT Sensor Network and Value Chain Optimisation).** The member workstreams are in definition phase right now. The first applications and proof of concepts being scoped at the moment.
4. **Technical Working Group:** Based on the members feedback and requirements the Software Development Kits to create decentralised identifiers and verifiable credentials were launched to MVP stage and accessible as open source on github. We are progressing with international recognized standards based on self-sovereign identity and W3C standards. A webservice to improve usability is being developed and released for feedback.
5. **Community:** The engagement and networking between different members beyond the scope of the Trust Alliance is increasing and it is great to see people and project interoperability growing beyond data interoperability.

Finance and Funding

Revenue for TANZ in FYE22 was \$300,000, comprising membership fees and external grants & funding. The majority of the costs were in staffing/sub-contractors, consultancy fees, engineering costs, research, and set up costs. The preliminary surplus for the year is \$76,079.64 before tax. We expect the final tax liability to be relatively small. That gives us a good foundation for the coming year along with the below external funding projects already underway:

- Sustainable Future Food and Fibre Fund for Digital Farm Environmental Plan- \$498k
- Westpac Innovation Fund - Project Value \$160k
- Potatoes NZ/ MPI Data Interoperability Working Group - \$50k

Established Partnerships & Working Groups

A crucial success component is collaboration and partnering with other organisations and initiatives to avoid “reinventing the wheel”. We have established partnerships and relationships with:

- Decentralised Identity Foundation – TANZ sits on several technical workgroups
- AgriTech NZ – Data Reference Group
- SAFI – Sustainable Agriculture Finance Initiative
- MPI - Data Interoperability Working Group (DIWG)
- MfE – Integrated National Farm Data Portal, N-cap
- DIA – Digital Identity Trust Framework
- MBIE – Future of Business
- Auckland Chamber of Commerce
- NZCoop – joined activities
- NZBIDA – Food Safety and Big Data
- UN Food System Summit - TANZ was part of the working group to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)
- Alliances with international technology providers

Complementary Initiatives & Programs	EVENTS in 2022:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● LINK2025 ● Keti Pamu ● INFDP 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● E Tipu Boma, Christchurch ● Primary Industry Summit, Auckland ● Digital Trust Hui Taumata (DINZ), Wellington ● Blockchain Forum NZ ● International Free Trade Panel (NZ/UK)

I would like to thank all our members, our strategic partners and supporters in this building phase for all their active contributions.



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