CASE STUDY
USDA NAL NIFA - DAMS

Data Management, Automation and Modernization Solutions

About USDA NAL

The National Agricultural Library (NAL) is a part of the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). It is responsible for acquiring, curating, and disseminating information related to agriculture and its allied fields. NAL's primary objective is to facilitate the creation of agricultural knowledge by providing public access and effective stewardship of agricultural data, literature, and other information resources. To improve its services to the public, NAL sought proposals from qualified contractors to develop a platform that automates and streamlines its workflow.

Challenges

The USDA NAL faced challenges related to the manual processing of agricultural research data and publications, leading to inaccuracies and incomplete databases. The organization also needed to improve its public access to agricultural research data and publications while maintaining high quality and security standards.

Services & Support Provided

vTech Solution provided a range of services and solutions to meet the USDA NAL's requirements. The team developed, configured, and customized a unified ingest portal using agile development methodologies. The platform optimizes user experience by providing a user-friendly UI/UX design, autocomplete, bulk uploading features, and appropriate notifications to users and systems. The team also supported tasks to identify the accuracy and completeness of NIFA's internal publication databases.

During the performance period, vTech Solution provided end-to-end services, including analysis, requirements specification creation, software design, development, integration, testing, version control, project management, and problem tracking. In addition, the team provided configuration, installation, deployment, account migration, follow-up operations, and maintenance services to ensure a seamless transition and high-quality performance.

Results

vTech Solution's successful project delivery has enabled the USDA NAL to provide more efficient services to the public while maintaining the accuracy and completeness of its internal publication databases. The platform has improved the discovery and cataloging of NIFA-funded research products, resulting in better public access to scientific research data and full-text publications. Integrating the reported and unreported NIFA-funded research products into PubAg and Ag Data Commons has enabled free public access to full-text NIFA-funded publications and scientific research data.

Overall, vTech Solution's rapid development process with an integrated security and testing environment has helped USDA NAL achieve its mission of advancing knowledge about agriculture and related fields and supporting the USDA's research and policy goals.