



Development project

Roadmap for food chain traceability

ROADMAP FOR FOOD CHAIN TRACEABILITY

GS1 Finland, together with companies from the food industry and retail trade sector, carried out a development project to create a roadmap for building interoperable traceability in the Finnish food chain. The roadmap provides a concrete plan that enables companies to meet tightening legislative requirements, improve their operations, and utilise sustainability data as a competitive advantage.

Currently, the development of traceability is particularly slowed down by the fragmentation of information and its poor interoperability between different systems. The foundation of future guidelines lies in international standards that enable efficient information sharing among stakeholders. The project also explored various models for information sharing that can be utilised in parallel in different operational environments and information sharing needs.

The development project identified three key areas that are prerequisites for effective traceability in the Finnish food chain:

- A collaboration forum where companies and authorities develop solutions together
- Better utilisation of authority systems
- Exploring the possibilities of a national solution that serves the entire industry and authorities, particularly for managing primary production data

The three-phase roadmap serves as a guide and a concrete action plan, enabling each food chain operator to identify their role and next steps in developing traceability.



Roadmap for food chain traceability

The roadmap includes three work packages:

1. Building the foundation for interoperability in traceability
2. Standardisation, design, and piloting of technical solutions
3. Implementation, scaling, and continuous development of technical solutions

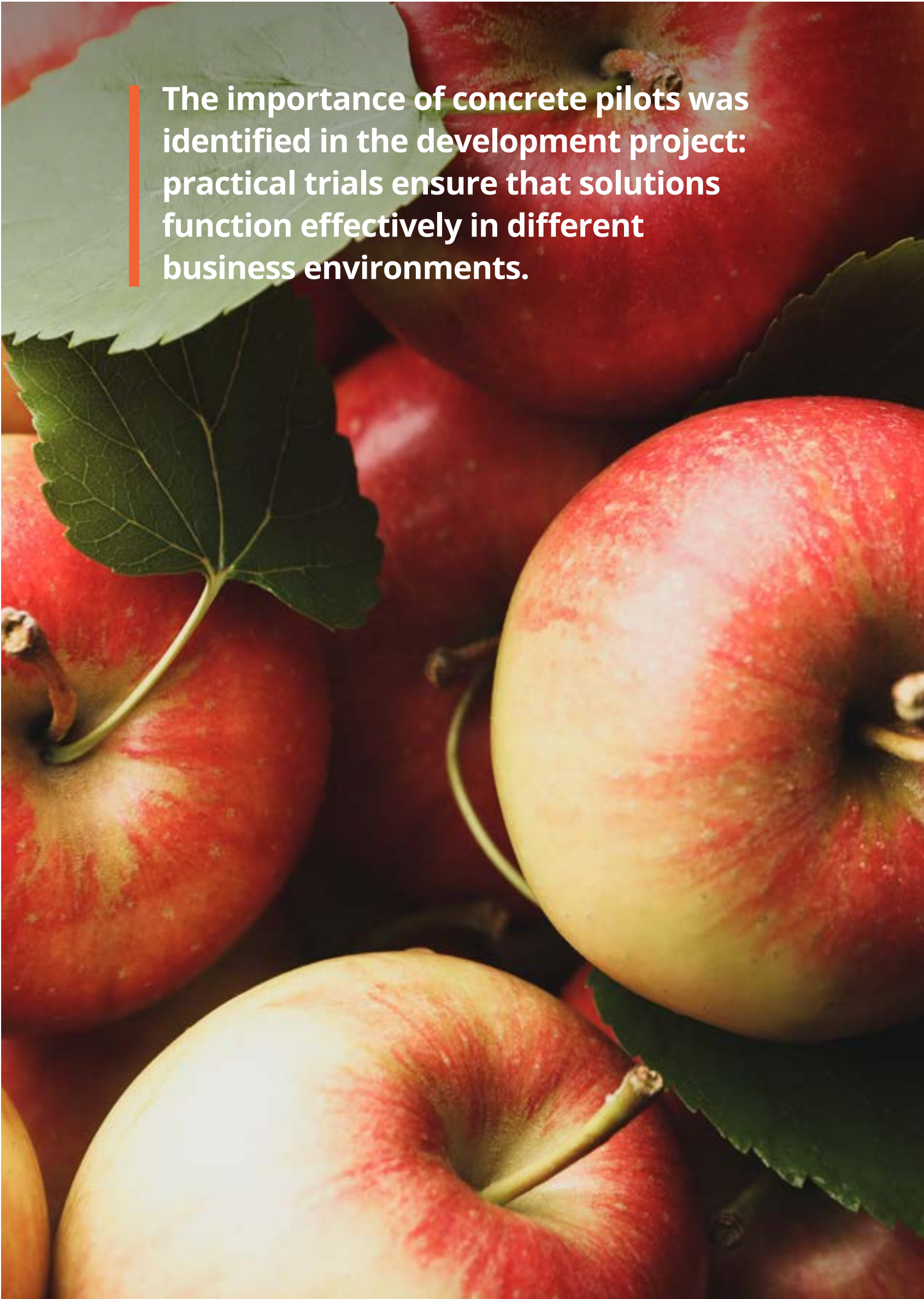
Implementation of the roadmap starts

GS1 has launched the Interoperable Traceability program, where a group of food industry and retail companies are committed to implementing the roadmap actions. The actions outlined in the roadmap have been compiled into development projects within the program, which are intended to be carried out in phases from 2025 to 2027.

The interoperable traceability solution being built in Finland is unique even in an international comparison. The work utilises lessons from international pioneers while creating a model that meets Finland’s specific needs and strengthens the competitiveness of our food chain in the future.



You can find the final report and its attachments on the GS1 Finland website. The material is available in Finnish.



The importance of concrete pilots was identified in the development project: practical trials ensure that solutions function effectively in different business environments.

Project introduction

The Food Data Finland growth engine program connects the entire food chain from primary production to industry and retail trade. The program develops practical data solutions and improves data interoperability to ensure that information is effectively utilised throughout the chain. The data collaboration in the Finnish food chain is strengthened through jointly implemented development projects that deliver concreteness and practical benefits to all industry players.

In November 2024, GS1 Finland, together with companies from the food industry and retail trade sector, launched a development project to propose the implementation of interoperable traceability solutions within the Finnish food chain. The roadmap created in the project describes how interoperable traceability in the industry could be built and what measures would be taken to develop it in the coming years. The primary goal of the traceability solution is

to enhance companies' ability to effectively meet the information management obligations set by legislation.

To create the roadmap and identify needs, GS1 conducted joint and company-specific workshops with food industry and retail trade companies. Additionally, a separate workshop was organised with industry technology providers. To evaluate the proposal, GS1 commissioned a third-party assessment from KPMG on the impact of the roadmap on Finnish food chain operators. Small and medium-sized enterprises in the food industry were also given the opportunity to participate in the discussion and provide feedback on the proposal. By mapping different perspectives, the aim was to ensure that the roadmap takes into account companies of various sizes within the chain.

We thank the following companies for participating in the development program

