

From Six Tools and No Standard.

To 718 RCAs and \$70M Uncovered.

How ADM consolidated **six legacy RCA tools** into one platform across four business units, gave frontline teams a process that didn't require practitioner depth, and surfaced **\$70M in failure costs** across 718 completed analyses — in under two years.

718 RCAs. Six tools replaced.

\$70M in failure costs uncovered.



INDUSTRY Agricultural Processing	LOCATION Global Operation	PREVIOUS RCA PROCESS 6 different tools	RCAS COMPLETED 718 in under 2 years
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THE CHALLENGE

Archer-Daniels-Midland — one of the world's largest agricultural processors — was running six different RCA tools across their network with no central data source and no standard process. Chronic failures went unresolved, frontline teams were doing whiteboard five-whys that never went deep enough, and hidden costs were accumulating across the business.

"There were so many variety of tools — ADM was using six different versions of a root cause analysis tool. One challenge with that is now we can't pull data from a central source."

— Matt Sadler, Global Reliability Engineer, ADM

WHY EASYRCA

ADM's user base spans a wide demographic — from new hires to engineers near retirement. They needed a tool that didn't require Excel expertise or a trained RCA practitioner to deliver value. EasyRCA won on ease of use and on actually getting teams to root causes rather than just filling out a form.

"You don't have to be a practitioner of root cause analysis. You can jump in and get to those root causes and put solutions in place much quicker than the other tools out there."

— Matt Sadler, Global Reliability Engineer, ADM

HOW IT ROLLED OUT

Phase 1 tested EasyRCA across 10 plants in 2022 — 24 RCAs, \$940K in cost impact. No mandate: plants were told to try it and adopt if it worked. By Phase 3, the tool had reached four business units with 601 RCAs and \$70M uncovered — now used across maintenance, food safety, EHS, and performance excellence.

RESULTS

- **\$70M in failure costs detected** — across 718 completed RCAs spanning 4 business units
- **One platform, one data source** — six legacy tools consolidated; leadership can now pull consistent metrics across the network
- **Process efficiency gains** — solving systemic failures drove measurable throughput improvements in processing and packaging lines
- **Improved team morale** — fewer recurring emergency failures means crews stop firefighting the same problem twice

FEATURES IN USE

- ✓ **RCA Builder**
Frontline teams conducting analysis without needing SME depth
- ✓ **AI-Assisted Analysis**
Coaching junior facilitators through logic trees in real time
- ✓ **Action Center**
Corrective actions tracked to closure across all sites
- ✓ **Centralized Reporting**
Single source of truth for KPIs across business units
- ✓ **Bad Actor Analysis**
Identifying repeat failure modes before they compound

HOW IT SPREAD

No mandate. ADM told each plant the same thing: try it, and if it works, adopt it. Within months, teams across maintenance, quality, EHS, and continuous improvement were using it — without being asked. That's the adoption signal most software never gets.

MATT'S ADVICE

"We tried it at ADM and we loved it — and it became the norm, the next innovation, instead of the next shiny thing or the next initiative."

Matt Sadler

Global Reliability Engineer, ADM

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