

AIRCA joins GODAN - Global Open Data for Health and Nutrition



At the last AIRCA Steering Committee meeting, AIRCA directors decided that the association should become a member of GODAN (Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition)

The Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) initiative seeks to support global efforts to make agricultural and nutritionally relevant data available, accessible, and usable for unrestricted use worldwide. The initiative focuses on building high-level policy and public and private institutional support for open data.

The initiative encourages collaboration and cooperation among existing agriculture and open data activities, without duplication, and brings together all stakeholders to solve long-standing global problems.

Open access to research, and open publication of data, are vital resources for food security and nutrition, driven by farmers, farmer organizations, researchers, extension experts, policy makers, governments, and other private sector and civil society stakeholders participating in "innovation systems" and along value chains. Lack of institutional, national, and international policies and openness of data limit the effectiveness of agricultural and nutritional data from research and innovation.

Making open data work for agriculture and nutrition requires a shared agenda to increase the supply, quality, and interoperability of data, alongside action to build capacity for the use of data by all stakeholders.

The GODAN initiative is a voluntary association brought together around a shared purpose, launched in October 2013. With a focus on open data for agriculture and nutrition, the initiative seeks to:

- advocate for new and existing open data initiatives to set a core focus on agriculture and nutrition data;
- encourage the agreement on and release of a common set of agricultural and nutrition data;
- by increasing widespread awareness of ongoing activities, innovations, and good practices;
- advocate for collaborative efforts on future agriculture and nutrition open data endeavours; and,
- advocate programs, good practices, and lessons learned that enable the use of open data particularly by and for the rural and urban poor.

AIRCA is fully committed to supporting GODAN in the following:

- *Agricultural and nutritional data to be available, accessible, usable and unrestricted*
- *Partners aim to build high level policy and private sector support for open data*
- *Encourage collaboration and cooperation across existing agriculture, nutrition and open data activities and stakeholders to solve long-standing global problems*

Led by CABI, AIRCA is also establishing its own web-portal that will pull together publications, abstracts and other documents from all AIRCA members for easy access by the public.

