

Reporting for Session 10 on 'Key Problems or policy blockages we should collectively be seeking to address' at GODAN meeting at FAO, Rome, Austria Room

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Notes:

0. opening by chair Michael Hailu (CTA)

1. Presentation from Rama Rao Darapuni (ICAR/NAIP): presentation of open access policy in India, linking to National Agricultural Innovation Project.

+ In 2012 there is open access policy in which also the government expressed its commitment, with the aim of making it open access as much as possible, if government funded.

+ Mentions many initiatives on open access, of publications and data

+ Motivational factors: 1. policy change, 2. institutional organizational change, with the creation of knowledge management unit, under direct supervision of the ministry at ICAR; 3. easy to do and implement

+ Major OA in ICAR:

1. Research journals in OA

2. Digital content, ICAR has a strong role in capacity building

+ Demonstrates the science impact of opening up an journal to open access. About ten times more downloads, and with a better impact factor of the journal

+ Future Challenges in OA in ICAR:

+ Sharing research data:

+ at what level? granularity

- + level
- + control in strategic areas
- + Partnerships in R&D on rise
 - + Differing views on OA
 - + Private sector not comfortable to share
- + Advocacy:
 - + Easy, but not happening

2. presentation from Richard Mugata:

- + unique effort of ministries and research institutes from different domains common together
- + working on capacity building with CIAT, which was really helpful
- + Challenges:
 - + on IT infrastructure, that needs improvement and stabilization
 - + work with donors on sustainable funds, not just project funds for one system that collapses after the project ends
 - + need on successful case studies
 - + more capacity building, also with specialised materials

3. Josef Schmidhuber, Deputy Director, FAO Statistics Division

- + enhance open data to open knowledge
- + challenges and setting
 - + Limited IT and statistical capacity
 - + poor governance: ineffective, or missing institutional frameworks, for example, 3 years ago there was no chief statistician and with the changes a clearance policy was implemented for surveys, established an international coordinating unit on top of regional offices
 - + Restrictive or unclear data policies
- + these result in:
 - + lack of meta-data management and data description

- + dispersed and uncoordinated data life cycle management
- + poor data dissemination systems, limited communication
- + limited interoperability between systems
- + what are the approaches?
 - + data need to be re-used, and open, without strings attached
 - + data should have adequate meta-data
 - + FAO on top of this:
 - + empowerment of data providers
 - + need for an international framework, leading to joint standards, and
 - + gives an example of micro data, with complaints/questions from users and producers.
- + approaches to address the problem:
 - + Capacity development in many different forms, also focusing on standard adoption.
 - + use of common standards, with the example of the collaboration with IFPRI
 - + data and tools as public goods, that are redistributable with no restrictions
 - + machine-to-machine interaction.

4. Questions from floor:

- + Piers Bocoock: What incentives are put in place to motivate researchers?
 - + Rama Rao Darapuni (ICAR/NAIP): the government policy that data funded with public resources should be open.
 - + Richard Mugata (KARI): it is about building the community, talking to them and providing some incentives
 - + Josef Schmidhuber (FAO): it is not only about the incentives, but also thinking about ethos in work of chief statisticians. Also the bigger the community gets, the more incentives the people have to join.

+ Simon Liu: Calculation of impact factor for the Indian journal:

+ Rama Rao: this is calculated by Thomson Reuters ISI.

+ Sjoerd Croque: Monitoring of impact of open data?

+ Josef Schmidhuber (FAO): it is possible to monitor the downloads and visits to the webpage, which is of limited usefulness, but in the future, more on the citations of the data. Attribution is very difficult, lack of counterfactuals, and specific evidence.

+ Rama Rao: impact assessment of the World bank precisely covers this, trying to estimate the impact of what is going to come. As an example, mentions the bioinformatics platform project, that could speed up discovery and innovation

+ IFPRI: on the metrics/monitoring, we should really measure the impact at farmer level, not on the downloads, it should be on networks, and visibility

+ Martin Parr (CABI): downloads are a crude metric, but still useful, next to case study documentation

+ Hugo Besemer (WUR): this could be an useful area for synergy, people could come together around this.

+ Kerry Albright (DFID): how do you interact with users?

+ Richard Mugata: used our scientists, that have links with farmers

+ Rama Rao: worked with the ministries and their support

5. Summary from chairman:

+ Not only the downloads are relevant for high level policy makers are of relevance, but really on cases of capacity building, new activities and different ways of doing things

+ Thanks to presenters and commentators