

Rapporteur's report of CIARD-GODAN meeting session 6 (Mary Ochs, Cornell University)

**Chair: Dr Ramo Rao (ICAR)**

- Introductions
- ICAR is member of CIARD

**GODAN- Cathie Woteki (USDA)**

Origins

- Obama memorandum on transparency and open government
- Public investment should be available to public
- OSTP Memo – Increasing access to the results of federally funded scientific research – Feb. 2013
  - Access to scientific publications and data
  - Includes in-house publications/data of government agencies and federally funded research
- OMB Open Data Policy – data should be open, discoverable, machine-readable
- 2013 G8 conference

Many actors prior to G8

- CIARD
- FAO
- Private sectors – addressing privacy concerns, addressing interoperability
- No high level advocacy voice

GODAN launched October 2013

- NOT a multi-donor trust fund
- NOT an implementation body, but creates platform

Challenges

- Needs leadership beyond G8
- Lacks permanently assigned US/UK staff
- How do you go from open data to impact at farm level

Questions

- How should CIARD and GODAN interact – must be interlinked
- GODAN should be broader than CIARD
- Concerns addressed in scope paper
- What is the best way to accomplish this?
- Members of orgs participating must come up with strategy – 80+ partners

## **GODAN- Tim Wheeler (DFID)**

### GODAN - Why, How and For Whom?

- Vision
  - Build policy and institutional support
  - Encourage global efforts to make data available, accessible and usable
  - Showcase innovative programmes, good practices, and increase awareness
- Why?
  - Global food security is a grand challenge for the 21<sup>st</sup> century
  - Projected trends in population, climate, etc. will stress-test the global food system
  - Open data unlock new technologies and stimulate innovation

### GODAN- for whom?

- Researchers – generating new data and increasing knowledge
- Agri-business – translating science into improved applications and practice
- Innovation community – sparking disruptive technologies, new platforms (e.g. mobiles)
- Policymakers – providing evidence

### GODAN- how?

- Broad and open partnership
- Add value to existing initiatives
- Support a Secretariat to catalyse and sustain GODAN

## **CIARD- Ajit Maru (GFAR) and Johannes Keizer (FAO)**

- A movement of volunteers from around the world
- Believes that info is a critical component for agricultural development
- Organized to educate...
- Working through collaboration and partnership
- Open access to knowledge is not just about technology. Many organizations consider info management as an engineering issue. Focus is on hardware and software
- Openness has needed clarification – not one singular form. It is about institutions, communities, technology, etc.

### Advocacy

- CIARD actors who physically manage info – takes time and perseverance to explain issues of openness
- Issues need to be tackled with the data generators and the data distributors
- Areas of action chosen carefully
  - Corps of volunteers
  - Building capacity at user level
  - Priority has been creating interoperability
  - Development of linked open data

- AIMS has been important
- Govt and public sector institutions are not yet prepared for their roles

#### Johannes Keizer-

- CIARD timeline
  - 1975 AGRIS
  - 1999 SIDALC
  - Timeline handout in packet
- Thinking about common standards
- Working on open technology
- Areas of action
  - Advocacy
  - Capacity development
  - Standards (AIMS community)
  - Technology infrastructure – CIARD members have contributed many tools

#### Funders

- European Commission
- DFID

#### CIARD links with GODAN

- Linked open data environment
- Future development together

#### Questions from the floor

- Martin Parr – How would GODAN secretariat work with CIARD principals and collaborators to achieve collective vision?
  - Answer: Starting point at DFID is that they are pretty convinced that embedding major initiatives with small resources for a period of time is needed. “How” is the subject of one of the sessions of this meeting. Six options already in background info. Current backstopping needs to get on more solid footing.
  - USDA is open to what the Secretariat might look like. Planning to contribute financial resources, but looking for partners. Right now there is a wide array of GODAN partners. Would like commitment from wide array of partners. There is a lot of breadth in the options. Looking for most feasible and looking forward to the discussion.
- Agricultural monitoring, Geo-Glam – really important, is there a plan to include this?
  - Answer: There are many of these open international initiatives. GODAN would be a very large international organization – room for many partners.
  - In CIARD – facilitate others to do the job to make data accessible. Do not need a centralization of data. From beginning, need to be very clear that we are looking for real projects for dissemination of data through small partner projects. Less funding for GODAN organization itself.

- John Gordon – add target audience. Need program to make teachers more aware of data and use of data.
  - Answer: Excellent point – separate or under the main umbrella? Data Science programs are getting more widely offered in UK. Students finishing this program are potential workers in this field
  - Who are the data scientists? What are their attributes? Not a lot of data.
- Secretariat – main purpose would be advocacy. Do you think being just an advocacy body is enough?
  - Answer: Thinking about parallel processes Tim has been involved with. Will be likely that Secretariat will come up with own strands of work, some of which may go beyond advocacy.

#### Additional Comments

- National agricultural systems are being forced to be innovative. Need a little more support so that national systems can use new technologies. They are already open. Need to build capacity to speed up processes for delivering data. Need to be able to communicate with other national ag systems. Need major funders to invest.