

GODAN: The Road Ahead - Meeting Statement

On July 27, 2018, the GODAN Secretariat (Secretariat) convened a meeting of GODAN partners to discuss “GODAN: The Road Ahead”. GODAN membership has grown exponentially since its launch, reflecting a strong interest and desire from all corners of the world to build on open data for agriculture and nutrition. The meeting was a great success and the GODAN Secretariat would like to recognize the Government of the Netherlands for their gracious support of the meeting. The GODAN Secretariat and its partners also recognise the invaluable support of its partners through both financial and in-kind contributions.

During the meeting participants: took stock of progress from launch (2013) to current; took note that the GODAN initiative was designed to last five years and that existing financial support for the Secretariat would end in 2019; acknowledged the evolution of the needs of GODAN partners with respect to open agriculture and nutrition data; and looked at the evolution during the next three years (2020-2022), seen as the transformation period.

Over 50 GODAN partners attended the event representing, public, private and non-profit organizations. Meeting participants overwhelmingly agreed that [the work of the GODAN initiative is unfinished and continuation is critical to enabling solutions to address agricultural challenges, food insecurity and malnutrition in all of its forms, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Partners appreciated the presentation of the proposed business plan (2020-2022) by the Secretariat. Numerous contributions from GODAN partners were made throughout the course of the day highlighting the impact the GODAN initiative has had since launch in 2013. GODAN was recognized as the key international initiative for open data in agriculture and nutrition, with a revolutionary and innovative approach toward advocacy and implementation of an imperative global responsibility.

The GODAN Secretariat, led by Andre Laperriere, Executive Director, proposed, and attendees supported, that the GODAN initiative will enter into a transition phase in 2019 to secure funding and should enter a transformation phase from 2020-2022 as outlined in the business plan, where it will focus on sustainable operations to advance strategic goals, which includes extended capability and capacity. The transformation phase will be contingent on the receipt and acceptance of sufficient proposals for hosting and financially supporting the GODAN Secretariat. Meeting participants voiced support for this scalable approach.

The GODAN Secretariat announced that a request for proposal (RFP) would be issued by September 1, 2018 to solicit and gather proposals from interested organizations for 1) providing financial support and/or 2) hosting the GODAN Secretariat, for the transformation period (2020-2022). While the Secretariat noted appreciation for proposals received to date, all interested parties would need to submit their interest through this official process. The Secretariat would evaluate the RFPs and make a final conclusion by December 1, 2018. Finally, the GODAN Donor Steering Committee announced its intent to evolve the existing structure to reflect the transition/transformation of GODAN, expand representation to effectively represent the GODAN initiative and its members, and clearly define the roles and responsibilities of the structure to ensure full operational transparency by December 2018.

July 27, 2018, London, United Kingdom