



Data and Information Systems Lead

ABOUT GODAN

GODAN was initially designed as a 5-year initiative to promote the proactive sharing of open data to make information about agriculture and nutrition available, accessible and usable. In this process, GODAN has become a unique global, cross sectoral network specifically focusing on agriculture and nutrition. We have convened major events across the globe, triggered the constitution of many new partnerships, developed major opinion forming research, encouraged and supported policy change to make open data dissemination and use the norm, supporting innovation at all levels.

In light of the exponential growth of its partnership (almost 1,000-member organizations worldwide) donors have agreed to support three years of a new business plan, designed to consolidate progress made so far and ensure the long term sustainability of GODAN achievements.

The GODAN Secretariat has acquired legal status in Canada and is relocating its headquarters to Montreal, where it will be hosted at the McGill University.

THE ROLE

Job title:	Data and Information Systems Lead
Salary:	Based on experience and qualifications
Reporting to:	Executive Director of the GODAN Secretariat
Direct reports:	Secondees, research staff, and close co-ordination and co-operation with all GODAN Secretariat Staff
Key peer group:	GODAN network systems managers
Location:	McGill University Campus, Montreal, Canada. In order to process any applications from nationals outside Canada, we would require documentation to show the applicant is currently resident and able to work in Canada, or is able to relocate independently and possesses full authorisation from Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC).

JOB DESCRIPTION

- To provide leadership and direction for the GODAN Secretariat's data systems activities, with focus on stimulating the development and implementation of innovation for its partner network. This includes the design, launch and growth of a partner-to-partner portal within the GODAN Web site, as well as the design and management of a direct data search and access facility.
- To provide strategic and systems planning to GODAN partners, so that GODAN can maximize technological exchange, interoperability and related capacity-building initiatives across the network.
- To provide support to beneficiaries across the globe. Offer high quality consultancy and advice to the GODAN Secretariat's communications and research team, partner organizations and donors.

KEY RESPONSABILITIES

- Design and oversee the implementation and functioning of the GODAN interactive platform for all present and future partners so as to encourage greater dialogue across the network.
- Enhanced information sharing and management, replacing the current Web site CRM (Civi), with a custom-designed, user-friendly system.
- Represent GODAN at international conferences or events related to the use of open data in agriculture and nutrition.
- Lead development of a global data taxonomy for use across the network and beneficiaries.
- Develop global data governance and management policies and guidelines.
- Design and create a partner-to-partner system allowing direct interaction/collaboration between partners. Develop a remote process that safely and legally enables partners to connect and exchange ideas. Ensure satisfaction of stakeholders.
- Developing policies, procedures, and guidelines which enhance the quality of GODAN's communications, links to partners and ability to record M&E based content for donor reporting. This includes the standard software chosen as standard for GODAN
- Help identify suitable data searching, access, analysis, etc. tools for use across the network.
- Manage links with McGill University's central IT team and establish a close relationship with key ICT counterparts across the network.
- Increase partner satisfaction by implementing a formal function, to aid effective dissemination of relevant papers and reports. Conduct customer satisfaction surveys and create systems to monitor performance.
- Provide technical direction and leadership in the conceptual development of methods and processes supporting the ICT function across the network and in support of the GODAN partners, and act as the custodian of those.
- Reduce Risk by developing and implementing ICT Business Continuity and Disaster Recovery documents for the GODAN platform.
- Oversee training of GODAN Staff (and Champions) in the use of GODAN tools and network technologies.
- Responsible for the vision and implementation of cooperatively developed research papers and capacity development tools related to open data that improve agriculture and nutrition.

- Ability to optimize PR opportunities, principally related to the design and release of innovative research/data products that ultimately benefit smallholders and rural communities in developing countries.
- Co-ordinate and cooperate with research partners and experts seconded to GODAN to ensure a pipeline of well designed, relevant and effective tools are delivered. Ensure most efficient use of individuals and facilities in all research activities.
- Foster sustainable initiatives. Prospect for new topics and develop them into results-based activities.
- Design and organize seminars and conferences on open data that produce lasting, reportable and quantifiable results.
- Organize reflexive knowledge sharing so as to improve the scope of innovation. Help partners think through potential new opportunities and initiate coordinate on valuable research topics.

CANDIDATE PROFILE

- Skilled in strengthening and scaling-up development operations in complex multi-disciplinary programs and with multiple partners.
- Evidence of managing ICT projects for an INGO or other large organization. Building knowledge and responsible for better informed and improved use of ICT systems.
- Proven to be operationally efficient, with the ability to introduce innovations and up-dated systems seamlessly and delivered to tight deadlines.
- Ability to identify innovations and systems which can be imported into GODAN's work to support advocacy, collaboration and innovation.
- Build positive working relationships with staff, partners and donors focused on open data advocacy and development.
- Technical expertise includes provision of results in the areas of; improved interoperability, communications systems, partner-to-partner interactions and support for advocacy activities. Familiarity and confidence in developing.
- Can develop new opportunities and help GODAN create new proposals and formulate consultancies and support services which are of value to partner organizations.
- Proven knowledge on Big Data design/analysis and AI applications.

QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS

- B.Sc. in Mathematics, Computer Systems or data analysis.
- Masters degree in business/computing services desirable.
- A minimum of 15 years of experience in managing significant information systems, preferably multi-sites; practical knowledge of various data interoperability protocols.
- International experience; capacity to adapt to various technical systems and to manage teams/partners from various national and other backgrounds.
- Further qualifications that show evidence of interest in IT services support business or projects, with emphasis on international development sector.
- Excellent spoken and written English essential. Other languages an asset, especially French.

- Excellent communication skills; capacity to represent GODAN in various public speaking events.

HOW TO APPLY

Please send a CV, covering letter and two professional references to: samuel.compton@godan.info with “Data and Information Systems Lead” in the subject line of the e-mail. Please mention in your covering letter where you heard about the position.

Only applicants with the required qualifications and experience will be considered for the position.

Applications close: Monday 8 July, 2019.

NOTE: This job description is not intended to be exhaustive. It is expected that the post holder and GODAN will adopt a flexible attitude and accept that the duties may have to be varied according to circumstances, in particular changing corporate requirements and individual development needs.