



Research and Partnership 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 a further three years around 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:	Research and Partnership lead
Salary range:	based on experience and qualifications
Reporting to:	Executive Director of the GODAN Secretariat
Direct reports:	Researchers, on secondment or hired
Key peer group:	GODAN Partners
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

- Designing the programme of work, focusing on planning and implementing research initiatives. Ensuring research projects deliver content that builds understanding and application of open data to improve agriculture and nutrition.
- To provide strategic systems planning and research coordination , including the delivery of products (academic papers, capacity development tools and Working Group outputs), as required under the terms of existing and future grant agreements and/or agreed as deliverables with donors, in line with the overall GODAN strategy.
- To deliver and measure impact, in agreement with GODAN Secretariat's management, and in line with the objectives articulated by the donor Steering Group.
- Ability to offer high quality consultancy advice to partners and donors, and oversee the realization of gender based issues linked to GODAN Secretariat's mission and activities.
- To represent GODAN in national and international events as required.

KEY RESPONSABILITIES

- Strengthen and up-scale development operations within a complex multi-disciplinary programme and among multiple partners.
- Design and operate interdisciplinary long-term research initiatives with partners.
- Responsible for the vision and implementation of cooperatively developed research papers and capacity development materials related to open data that actively improve agricultural and nutritional outcomes.
- Ability to identify and develop project opportunities, principally related to the design and release of innovative research products that ultimately benefit smallholders and rural communities in developing countries
- Coordinate research partners and experts seconded to GODAN to ensure a pipeline of well designed, relevant and effective tools are delivered. Ensure efficient use of individuals and resources in all research activities.
- Design and roll-out schedules of research work that interests and engages multiple, diverse stakeholders. Responsible for building an audience, interest and value in GODAN's unique and cooperative research activities.
- Strengthen cross-cultural teams, stimulate research teams to effectively address strategic challenges and deliver innovations to time and to scale.
- Foster sustainable initiatives. Prospect for new topics and develop them into results based activities.
- Design and organise seminars and conferences on open data that produce lasting, quantifiable results, and produce regular reports.
- Organise reflexive knowledge-sharing so as to improve the scope of innovation. Help partners identify and understand potential opportunities for collaborative work and initiate contact and coordination on valuable research topics.

CANDIDATE PROFILE

- Evidence of managing research processes, including building research teams. Experience of managing learning-based programs which deliver innovation and improve the use of data
- Proven to be operationally efficient, possessing the ability to deal with many complex projects delivered to tight deadlines.
- Ability to identify trends and seek new areas of research in the field of open data, agriculture and nutrition.
- Build positive working relationships with partners and funders focused on open data advocacy and development.
- Technical expertise includes provision of results that support delivery of activities for donors. Familiarity and confidence in developing and managing LogFrames, theories of change, program inputs and outputs and ensuring activities support donor report.
- Experience designing quantitative and qualitative techniques across sectors and specialisms, with an emphasis on developing quantitative forms of reporting in a complex and nuanced environment.
- Can see new opportunities and help GODAN create new proposals and formulate consultancies and support services which are of value to partner organizations.

QUALIFICATIONS AND SKILLS

- Masters degree essential; PhD highly desirable.
- Familiarity with data or other GODAN substantive subject areas important.
- Proficiency in English, both spoken and written essential.
- Proficiency in other languages such as French and Spanish are strong assets.
- Familiarity with communications and donor relations.
- Excellent working knowledge of MS Office Suite and Google (Docs, Drive and Calendar).

EXPERIENCE

- Over 15 years of international experience, primarily in the areas of development, open data, agriculture and nutrition.
- Experience in the food systems, development or international aid sectors a strong advantage.
- Management experience, primarily in the field of research, with emphasis on open data.
- Knowledge and understanding of donor funding and international development program design and implementation.
- Evidence of experience in the international sector. Experience of work on the African continent would be an advantage.

PERSONAL CHARACTERISTICS

- Friendly and empathetic, open to debate about ideas, an organiser and results orientated.
- Able to direct activities with academic rigor, while having the common touch and knowing how to turn complex ideas into simple and practical advice.
- Can lead fellow academics but also present innovations effectively to wide ranging audiences.
- A self-starter – able to complete tasks and projects to tight deadlines under minimal supervision.
- Works well in a results based organization. While able to work independently is happy to be a positive member of a small team.

HOW TO APPLY

Please send a CV, covering letter and two professional references to: samuel.compton@godan.info with “Research and Partnership 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.