

**PRESS RELEASE - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**THE END TO WORLD HUNGER TO BEGIN AT GODAN SUMMIT 2016, NEW YORK**  
**15<sup>th</sup> - 16<sup>th</sup> September 2016, Hilton Midtown, New York**

**LONDON & NEW YORK, 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2016:** Nearly 800 million people struggle with debilitating hunger and malnutrition – that's one in every nine people, with the majority being women and children. **GODAN**, or **Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition** initiative, is convinced that the solution to Zero Hunger lies within existing, but often unavailable, inaccessible and unusable agriculture and nutrition data.

Today sees the launch of the two-day **GODAN Summit 2016**, the largest ever event dedicated to open data in agriculture and nutrition, convening over 750 attendees including world leaders, researchers, farmers, students and others – public, private and non-profit - united around a collaboration on agriculture and nutrition data openness.

Taking place on the margins of the UN General Assembly on **Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> and Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> September** at the **Hilton Midtown Hotel, New York**, GODAN Summit 2016 will illustrate the opening, use, and importance of agriculture and nutrition data – data that anyone can access, use and share - for better policy and decision making to ensure no one goes to bed hungry.

The public is invited to attend the Summit to join over 350 GODAN partners, including the Governments of the United States, Kenya, and the United Kingdom, ONE campaign, and Presidents United to Solve Hunger (PUSH).

Some of the exciting features of GODAN Summit 2016, include:

**GAME-CHANGING SPEECHES:** The two-day summit will see high-octane speeches by world leaders and innovators who will share their thoughts on how to end world hunger through open data. A number of high profile, active campaigners will also join the discussion.

The following panels will take place on Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> September:

***Connecting a Continent: Open Data for Africa***  
**10.30am-12.30pm | Rendezvous**

Kat Townsend (Data Collaboratives) | Jeanne Holm (Chief Information Officer and Director of Education and Communities at World Peace One)

Civic actors across Africa use open data to drive growth, unburden bureaucracy, build innovative solutions to tough problems, and improve lives. This session will showcase great solutions, demonstrate the shared value of open data for public and private sector, and convene current and new open data enthusiasts for Africa.

***Effective Open Data: User-centered, Joined-up and Interoperable***  
**10.30am-12.30pm | Petit**

Session Action Officer: Timothy Davies (Open Data Services Co-Operative) | Andre Jellema (GODAN). Session Speaker: Steven Flower (Open Data Services Co-Operative) | Laia Grino (InterAction) | Zara Rahman (The Engine Room) | Andre Jellema (GODAN) | Jeremy De Beer (University of Ottawa, Faculty of Law) | Fiona Smith (Open Data Institute)

This session will draw on the insights of both the Open Data Charter's "Open Data for Agriculture" project and the Initiative for Open Agriculture Funding. Between them,

these two projects seek to define user needs, improve data interoperability, and refine agricultural funding data standards. The session will also look at some of the tensions between openness and ownership as GODAN launches two new papers on issues of data rights and responsibilities, ownership and governance.

***Using Data to Improve Nutrition Policy, Programming and Accountability***  
**10.30am-12.30pm | Trianon**

Session Action Officer: Paula Gray Hunker | Seb Mhatre. Session Speaker: Catherine Woteki (U.S. Department of Agriculture) | Anna Herforth (Columbia University) | Shenggen Fan (International Food Policy Research Institute) | Alastair Summerlee (University of Guelph) | Roger Thurow (The Chicago Council on Global Affairs) | David Gustafson (ILSI Research Foundation) | Pamela Starke-Reed (ARS/USDA) | Samuel Myers (Harvard University) | Cathleen Cissé (Project Manager for the INDDX Project)

From the global to the individual, this interactive session will discuss how nutrition open data can facilitate achievement of SDG 2 by improving food/nutrition policies, nutrition programming and the monitoring of nutrition goals. Participants will learn about current global nutrition status, newly released data sets, and game-changing interventions.

***Open Data Soapbox: Let your Ideas Be Heard and Network with Colleagues!***  
**1.30pm-3.30pm | Rendezvous Room**

Organized by The GovLab, this session provides a platform for GODAN Summit attendees to share their ideas, insights and proposals on using open agriculture and nutrition data to solve global food and nutrition security challenges and network with others working on similar issues. GODAN Summit attendees may sign-up in advance to reserve the opportunity to give verbal interventions during this session for up to 2 minutes in length (no powerpoints). The interventions must align with one of the following categories: open data ideas, practices and proposals to 1) improving government policies and services, 2) empowering individuals/organizations, or 3) driving innovation and economic growth. Interventions must conclude with a clear and concise action item you would like to collaborate or get input on.

***Precision Agriculture: How Could Open Data Revolutionize Farm Productivity?***  
**1.30pm-3.30pm | Trianon**

Session Action Officer: Samuel Crowell (USDA). Session Speaker: Sander Jansenn (Alterra, Wageningen UR) | Ruud Grim (Netherlands Space Office) | Daniel Jiménez R (Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT)) | Raj Khosla (Colorado State University) | Marco van den Berg (International Rice Research Institute) | Sally Schneider

This session will explore precision agriculture – farming practices based in information and technology that allow farmers to manage fields in a site-specific manner. It will assess at how open data can enable emerging precision agriculture technologies in a variety of contexts, from smallholder- to larger-scale growing operations across developed and developing regions.

***Workshop - Setting priorities: The Most Important Open Data for Agriculture***  
**1.30pm-3.30pm | Petit**

Timothy Davies (Open Data Services Co-Operative) | Andre Jellema (GODAN)

Join the Initiative for Open Ag Funding and Agricultural Sector Package Working Group to explore the priority use-cases and open datasets on farming and funding. This hands-on and participatory workshop session will dig down to explore the

particular fields, vocabularies and publishing practices needed to make data high-impact, interoperable and accessible.

The following panels will take place on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> September:

***Agricultural Data as Public Good for Africa's Prosperity***

**10.30am-12.30pm | Trianon**

Session Action Officer: Casper Sitemba (Government of Kenya). Session Speaker: Andre Laperriere (GODAN) | Willy Bett (Republic of Kenya Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock and Fisheries) | Abraham Sing'Oei (Government of Kenya) | Sammy Kanai (Ewaso Nyiro South Development Authority) | Frank Tumwebaze (Government)

The agricultural industry is the largest economic sector in most G77 countries, with the potential of creating opportunities for shared prosperity and ending poverty. The session will explore agricultural transformation that could leverages connectivity & mobile devices to deliver critical information (soil, crop, weather), market facilitation and financial services.

***Open Data Revolution: Pipe Dream or Global Solution?***

**10.30am-12.30pm | Rendezvous**

Session Action Officer: Paula Gray Hunker | Steven Prager (International Center for Tropical Agriculture). Session Speaker: Samantha Custer (AidData/College of William & Mary) | Mary Keenum (Mississippi State University) | Glenda Humiston (University of California) | Steve Dauphin (Kirchner Impact Foundation) | Brady Deaton (University of Missouri) | Daniel Jiménez R (Centro Internacional de Agricultura Tropical (CIAT)) | John McHarris (UN WFP) | Julia Finkelstein (Cornell University)

Massive, freely available ag and nutrition data is potentially the single greatest accelerator towards a zero hunger world. The CGIAR and Presidents United to Solve Hunger (PUSH) tackle the challenges of transforming research to create a greater global public good with open data and the resultant access to big data approaches.

***Open Data: from Release to Impact***

**10.30am-12.30pm | Rendezvous**

Session Action Officer: Martin Parr (GODAN secretariat & CABI) | Seb Mhatre. Session Speaker: Bobbin Teegarden (Working Ontologist) | Sarah Hull (Sygenta) | Kelly Shephard (Institute of Development Studies) | Dean Allemang (Working Ontologist, LLC)

In order for open data to make a real difference requires tackling a range of challenges such as organizational change, interoperability, infrastructures, and capacity building. In this session, the Chief Scientist from the UK's Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs will share the lessons learned from releasing 11,000 datasets and the DFID funded GODAN project will share the details of their exciting new GODAN Action project that will develop standards and capacity to use open data for agriculture and nutrition. Syngenta will present a vision for a shared global data infrastructure for agriculture industry – a common data ecosystem - produced and used by diverse stakeholders, from smallholder farmers to multinational conglomerates. Defra will also share lessons learned from establishing a cross-Whitehall centre of excellence on earth observation, and discuss what the future holds for earth observation.

***Communicating Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition***

**1.30pm-3.30pm | Rendezvous**

Session Action Officer: Isaura Lopes Ramos (CTA) | Chris Addison (CTA). Session Speaker: Chris Addison (CTA) | Natasha Mhango (National Agricultural Information Services) | Ulrich Atz (CTA).

Data collection and analysis are being refereed as one of the most important factors in communication of information. Data visualisation refers to the use of visualisations such as maps, dials, graphs, charts, etc. to communicate information in order to enable the audience to absorb and interpret data quickly and easily. For the agricultural sector, the use of data visualisation tools can help reveal important trends and different variables such as environmental factors, geographic location yield percentage, types of products, seed care data that effect changes to crop and yields. Nowadays, there are many data visualisation tools and software programmes open source and free that can give decision support for policy-makers, researchers, farmers for better planning. This session will outline some of the agriculture open data visualisation tools providing information on agricultural science and technology.

**Research Symposium: Open Research Data Going Forward**  
**1.30pm-3.30pm | Trianon**

Session Action Officer: Ben Schaap (GODAN) | Sander Janssen, (REI). Session Speaker: Rainer Baritz (UN FAO) | Shaun Hobbs (CABI) | Rebecca Lawrence (F1000)

At this Research Symposium, academics, researchers and open data practitioners will have the opportunity to discuss their latest findings. Topics to address in our research symposium will cover open data releases, interoperability and creating impact.

**SDG2 Accountability Framework: for a World without Hunger**  
**1.30pm-3.30pm | Petit**

*Andre Laperriere (GODAN) | Sylvia Szabo (Save the Children)*

Ensuring effective accountability mechanisms will be a pre-requisite for achieving food and nutrition security and thus advancing the progress towards Sustainable Development Goal 2. Identifying and filling data gaps, data standardisation and data disaggregation will become increasingly critical with the ever-greatest focus on socio-economic inequalities. This session highlights the results of the work on SDG2-related accountability and data gaps undertaken by a multi-stakeholder group led by GODAN, in particular the results of the workshop, which took place during the HLPF in July in New York. The framework consists of a pool of policies and tools to be adapted by governments, civil society, international organizations, and the private sector, and involves creating an enabling environment and a tailored data portal.

**GODAN High-Level Forum, 4.00pm-5.30pm | United Nations Headquarters, ECOSOC Chamber. Voices of United Nations Systems:** H.E. Mr. Ban Ki-moon, Secretary-General of the United Nations (invited), Prof. Jeffrey Sachs, UN Secretary-General's Special Advisor on the SDGs, Mr. Amir Abdulla, Deputy Executive Director, World Food Programme Mr. Thomas Gass, Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs, UN DESA. **Voices of GODAN Summit Visionaries:** The Honorable Thomas Vilsack, Secretary, Department of Agriculture, United States of America, The Honourable Willy Bett, Minister, Ministry of Agriculture, Kenya, Dr. Mark Keenum, Chair, PUSH Steering Committee, Ms. Rachel Lambert, Interim Deputy Chief Scientific Advisor, Department for International Development, United Kingdom.

The closing plenary of GODAN Summit 2016 will comprise a high level UN forum bringing together government ministers from Kenya, the United Kingdom, and the United States, as well as leading business figures and others to discuss and advance open data on agriculture and nutrition. This is an exclusive event that will run

concurrently with the GODAN Summit 2016. It will also be webcast live to the main summit.

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**GODAN HACKATHON, Morgan Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor:** Part of **GODAN's Open Data Challenge**, the **GODAN Hackathon** is a radical 32-hour hackathon which brings together 80 coders, students, designers, marketers, young entrepreneurs, open data enthusiasts, forward-thinkers, and curious minds, to uncover new, innovative ways to unleash the power of open data and solve specific challenges in agriculture and nutrition, to enable policy makers, farmers and the open data community to make significant steps forward in the release, management and use of open data. Beginning Floor at 10.30am on Thursday,

15<sup>th</sup> September 2016 the teams with the most pioneering and disruptive ideas will be presented with incredible prizes at an award ceremony on Friday, 16<sup>th</sup> September.\* Winning teams will receive the chance to gain access to the GODAN Mentoring Programme, powered by Thought For Food, where they will receive business mentorship and guidance on building their concept. In addition and as a result of successful completion of the GODAN Mentoring Program, teams will join the GODAN Challenge finalists in competing for the grand finale prize of the GODAN Global Open Data Challenge of \$5000 and a trip to an international food security summit in 2017.\*\* GODAN Hackathon is powered by Thought For Food and Presidents United to Solve Hunger (PUSH).

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**OPEN-DATA ONLINE REVOLUTION:** Along with partner Global Citizen, GODAN has set up an online petition with the aim of garnering 1 million signatures. The petition calls on international governments, the private sector and civil society to provide open data on agriculture and nutrition and end world hunger. The petition will be handed over at a meeting at the United Nations in New York. People can still extend their support by signing the petition today: <http://summit.godan.info/petition/>

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**EXHIBITS:** GODAN Summit 2016 will include over 40 exhibitors to showcase how they are using agriculture and nutrition open data and it's importance as a means to end world hunger.

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A rapidly growing initiative, GODAN focuses on building high-level policy, and encourages collaboration and cooperation among existing agriculture and open data activities by bringing together stakeholders to solve long-standing global challenges in food and nutritional security. Over 350 partners, including national governments and non-governmental, international and private sector organisations, have committed to a joint statement of purpose to promote the proactive sharing of open data to make information about agriculture and nutrition available to all.

**To see the GODAN Summit 2016 live, visit:** <http://cdn.digitalservices.online/GODAN/>

**To see the GODAN High-Level Forum live from the United Nations Headquarters, visit:** <http://webtv.un.org/live/>

**To sign the petition to help end world hunger now, visit:** <http://summit.godan.info/petition/>

**To become a GODAN partner, click here:** [www.godan.info/becomeagodanpartner](http://www.godan.info/becomeagodanpartner)

– ENDS –

**For further information, please contact:**

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**Notes to Editors:**

**Media Kit:** [goo.gl/2Bousl](http://goo.gl/2Bousl)

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**Facebook:** [www.facebook.com/godansec](http://www.facebook.com/godansec)

**LinkedIn:** GODAN Secretariat

**Instagram:** godansec

#### **About Global Open Data for Agriculture & Nutrition**

GODAN supports the proactive sharing of open data to make information about agriculture and nutrition available, accessible and usable, to deal with the urgent challenge of ensuring world food security. Any organisation which supports open access to agriculture and nutrition data can join GODAN. The group currently contains over 350 partners from national governments, non-governmental, international and private sector organisations. **For more information: [www.godan.info](http://www.godan.info)**

#### **GODAN Summit 2016**

The GODAN Summit will be held on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> September in New York City, New York. The Summit will bring together world leaders, researchers, farmers, students and others public, private and non-profit united around a collaboration on agriculture and nutrition data openness. Join the largest event ever planned for open data in agriculture and nutrition. The goals of the Summit are to illustrate the opening, the use, and the importance of agriculture and nutrition data. **For more information: <http://summit.godan.info>**

#### **About the Open Data Maker's Hackathon**

The 24-hour Open Data Maker's Hackathon starts at 09:00am on 15<sup>th</sup> September, ends on 16<sup>th</sup> September at 12:30pm, with the Award Ceremony scheduled for 12:00pm. This will take place in the Morgan Suite at the Hilton Midtown. \* Open Data Maker's Hackathon Winning Prizes:

- 1st Place: \$3000, 2nd Place: \$2000, 3rd Place: \$1000
- Access to international GODAN Summit, T-shirt and certificate for everyone participating.
- Winning teams will also receive the opportunity to enter the GODAN Mentoring Program, powered by Thought For Food, where they will receive business mentorship and guidance on building their concept.
- In addition, as a result of successful completion of the GODAN Mentoring Program, teams will join the GODAN Challenge finalists in competing for the grand finale prize of the GODAN Global Open Data Challenge of \$5000

\*\*Summit and date of competition to be confirmed.