US Government GODAN Summit Announcements

The Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) Initiative, comprised of over 350 international organizations representing governments, donors, businesses, and not-for-profits, continues to be a leader in advocating for the use of open data as a mechanism to support sustainable development. The initiative focuses on building high-level policy and public and private institutional support for open data for agriculture and nutrition and encourages collaboration and cooperation among existing agriculture and open data activities to solve long-standing global problems. To learn more about joining GODAN, please visit: http://www.godan.info/partners/become-a-godan-partner/. To view ongoing U.S. Government releases of open data resources within the agriculture and nutrition fields, visit www.data.gov/food/ .

Standard Reference Materials (NIST):
The National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) provides food, agricultural, and dietary supplement Standard Reference Materials (SRMs) for method development and demonstration of method performance. SRMs are used by food manufacturers across the country to ensure the accuracy of analytical measurements of nutrients and/or contaminants in foods and agricultural materials. Over 75 SRMs are available from NIST in the food and agricultural categories with information for these SRMs, and others, found at http://www.nist.gov/srm/. With foreign sales of over 1500 SRM units annually and domestic sales of over 1000 units annually, these SRMs have a great impact by providing quality assurance materials to companies needing to meet regulatory requirements.

Data Collaboratives for Local Impact (PEPFAR, Millennium Challenge Corporation):
In April 2016, The United States President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR) and the Millennium Challenge Corporation (MCC) launched the $21.8 million "Data Collaboratives for Local Impact" (DCLI) program. DCLI is aligned with broader U.S. government efforts to maximize the effectiveness of U.S. foreign assistance, and with the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data to provide a practical country-level demonstration of how the data revolution could enhance efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The first two DCLI projects are underway in Tanzania, and information can be found at https://www.mcc.gov/initiatives/initiative/mcc-pepfar-partnership.

Reports on Open Data in Development and Open Data Ethics (USAID):
In April 2016, the United States Agency for International Development (USDAID) launched a request for proposals (RFP) to support analysis of open data efforts in emerging economies. This landscape study of "success stories" and "failures" will assess operationalization of open data in several contexts, provide new insights around open data implementation in development, and generate a "theory of change". USAID also expects to present draft guidelines for ethical approaches to data collection and publication in the development context before the end of 2016. Reports will be available at https://www.globalinnovationexchange.org/.

SERVIR Program (USAID, NASA):
The USAID-NASA SERVIR program has developed three tools to use open remote sensed data for "real world" applications, including: 1) agricultural drought monitoring in Nepal using Landsat data; 2) flood forecasting in Bangladesh using Jason 2 data; and 3) a new product called AGRISERV that combines two global open data sets to estimate rainfall and vegetation, which will be incorporated into an M&E tool for large-scale agricultural development programs. Relevant links include:

1) ClimateSERV - http://climateserv.nsstc.nasa.gov/
2) SERVIR Flood Product - http://catalogue.servirglobal.net/Product?product_id=114
3) SERVIR Drought Product - http://catalogue.servirglobal.net/Product?product_id=96

Veteran's Data (VA)

1) **Affairs Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) 2013**. This report uses U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey 2013 data to characterize participants in the Veteran's Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP). Food security is an important part of Veteran's wellbeing. About 6% of SNAP households has a Veteran. Regardless of race, marital status, education, and income, Veteran households participate in SNAP less than non-Veteran households.
2) **Characteristics of Rural Veterans: 2010.** This brief uses data from the 2009 and 2010 Annual Homeless Assessment Reports (AHAR) to compare the demographic characteristics of Veterans homeless and non-Veteran homeless. It also compares rural and urban Veteran Homeless.
3) **Rural Veterans by State**. This spreadsheet contains data from the 2014 American Community Survey and shows the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of Veterans who live in rural and urban areas. The spreadsheet includes variables like: raw numbers, unemployment rate, disability rate, median personal income, age groups, period of service and other variables.

Ag Data Commons (USDA):
Researchers funded by the US Department of Agriculture (USDA) generate terabytes of publicly releasable data each year. These valuable data are currently scattered across many repositories or have not yet been made available or easily discoverable. The National Agricultural Library announces the Ag Data Commons (https://data.nal.usda.gov), a pilot providing open access to the research data from the scientists at USDA's Agricultural Research Service. Over time the Ag Data Commons will expand its coverage to include data generated from studies funded across the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Ag Data Commons is designed to encourage machine readability and re-use of high quality data, and to be scalable and sustainable. New datasets in the Ag Data Commons and its partner repositories include New Life Cycle Assessment resources from http://lcacommons.gov, and the full database underlying the recently redesigned Dr. Duke's Phytochemical & Ethnobotanical Databases (http://phytochem.nal.usda.gov).

Agricultural Domain (USDA):
The Agriculture Data Domain project's goal is to release harmonized open data standards to be used within USDA, industry and the public. The first data standards are for farmers and producers to submit Acreage and Crops reports to USDA. USDA also established engagement mechanisms for feedback from Industry and International communities. By opening data standards that are used internally at USDA, this will reduce the burden for reporting requirements for farmers and producers. The Agriculture Data Domain will eventually expand to support other USDA Stakeholders. The Agriculture Data Domain is built on the National Information Exchange Model (NIEM) best practices identified by the Department of Justice, Department of Homeland Security and Health and Human Services over the last 15 years (https://usda.github.io/data-standards/).

PubAg (USDA):
PubAg is a portal to USDA-authored agricultural research publications, delivering over 40,000 full-text journal articles written by USDA staff. Research topics covered include anything and everything related to the agricultural sciences such as nutrition, food safety, animal and crop production and protection, just to name a few (http://pubag.nal.usda.gov/pubag/home.xhtml).

National Nutrient Database (USDA):
The USDA National Nutrient Database (http://ndb.nal.usda.gov/) is a searchable database that can be queried by food item, group, or list. In 2013, the Database contained nutritional content of approximately 8,000 foods, which users could view online and/or download. The Database has been expanded to

incorporate Branded Foods, with close to 100,000 items already added and exponential growth expected in the coming months.

Global Agricultural Concept Scheme (GACS):

In conjunction with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and CABI in the United Kingdom, USDA released an openly available thesaurus of terms and core concepts called [GACS Core (Beta 3.1 version)](#) under the id.agrisemantics.org/gacs namespace. GACS Core defines over 15,000 concepts and over 350,000 terms in 28 languages. Usable not only in tagging bibliographic resources for structured browsing and retrieval, GACS will be mapped to more specific domain ontologies linked, in turn, to elements in empirical datasets, thus providing a hub of common terminology for improving the coherence of agricultural data overall.

Genetic Improvement of Staple Crops and GRIN Global (USDA):

USDA has invested considerable resources in cultivating the genetic improvement of staple crops including maize, wheat, and soybeans. In addition to innovative research, USDA, along with other government partners, provided foundational funding for the Maize Genome Database, SoyBase, and GrainGenes, all of which provide researchers globally with the information necessary to address food security concerns. USDA has also pioneered methods for providing researchers with open access to germplasm information through the Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN). GRIN-Global is public domain, freely available software that was initially developed by the Agricultural Research Service (ARS) of USDA, with support from the non-governmental organizations Global Crop Diversity Trust (now Crop Trust) and Bioversity International. It is used to manage plant genetic resource collections and genebank workflows. GRIN-Global is based on the plant database of the Germplasm Resources Information Network (GRIN), which was used for three decades by USDA-ARS to manage the U.S. National Plant Germplasm System (NPGS). The NPGS curates more than 570,000 accessions of agroeconomically important plants and makes the information about them, as well as the germplasm itself, globally available to plant breeders and other research scientists. GRIN-Global is a flexible and scalable suite of applications that can meet the collection management needs of both small and large genebanks. Its major components include tools for administration, searching, and curation through a Windows client application, and a browser independent public website for publishing the data and receiving requests for germplasm. GRIN-Global was envisioned as an unprecedented opportunity for increased rational worldwide collaboration on the long term collection, conservation, and documentation of plant genetic resources for food and agriculture. This global partnership is being realized as the national collections in several countries, as well the International Maize and Wheat Center (CIMMYT), are also currently using GRIN-Global. Numerous other collections are moving toward adopting GRIN-Global and/or are evaluating it. We hope to participate in a global community dedicated to building best practices for genetic resource conservation, collaborative software development, and open data sharing for the public good. For more information about the GRIN-Global project please visit: http://www.ars-grin.gov/npgs/gringlobal/sb/home.html

Agricultural Market Data (USDA):

The USDA Agricultural Marketing Service (AMS) Market News (http://marketnews.usda.gov/mnp/fv-home), now operating in its 101st year, is building a new data and communication platform called the Market Analysis and Reporting System or MARS, to be launched in 2017. MARS will allow the public to directly access the vast stores of detailed market information from AMS, including prices and supplies available, and it will allow direct input of information and data from multiple sources, including national and international partners, as well as contacts and stakeholders. AMS Market News also leading efforts in the hemisphere by serving as Chair of the Market Information Organization of the Americas (www.mioa.org) - an effort to enhance and harmonize the market coverage to provide timely and reliable

agricultural market information, and to promote the concept that market transparency is a basic public good.

STEAM Summer Camps (USDA):
Leveraging open data in government operations and policies will require data analysts, quality assurance specialists, and data officers with a variety of data experience. Because students' interests in pursuing technical fields begins in schools, USDA has launched an Open Data Science Technology Engineering Agriculture and Math (STEAM) Summer Camp Program in order to build capacity and support IT workforce development. Through these two-week STEAM Summer Camps, USDA engages middle and high school students in USDA's data-intensive activities to provide them with hands-on experience in accessing and using open data sets (https://www.patriots-ttc.org/usda-summer-camp.html).