

**GODAN Steering Committee
Meeting Minutes
June 26, 2017**

Participants*

Name	Organization	Email
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Martin Parr	GODAN Secretariat	m.parr@cabi.org
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*Due to personal obligations M. Holderness could not attend.

Rapporteur

Ruthie Musker	GODAN	ruthie.musker@godan.info
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Summary of Key Decisions:

SC members endorsed the nomination of Jaime Adams as interim Chair; appreciated the expansion of the SC to include Germany; welcomed a guest from Cambridge (Nutrition)

GODAN Secretariat to reflect the mention of 'depth' of partner engagement in the *December minutes*

The *GODAN Partnership Engagement* document should refer to the Agenda 2030 as context, and precise that it is a statement of high level priorities for the Secretariat, not the result of a collective consultation across the network. Finally priorities should reflect their relative importance in the text.

SC members expressed satisfaction of the activities carried out since the last SC in December. They were especially pleased with outcome of the Nairobi Summit.

The approach proposed towards elaborating a nutrition strategy for GODAN was approved. (Tentative deadline Sept)

Enhancement of the improvement of the GODAN website Information Architecture was approved, subject to keeping costs reasonable and not be overambitious but rather start small and build based on response/usage. (Target release date Sept 1)

SC Members to send to the Secretariat possible events they intend to attend during the fall for the Secretariat to subsequently arrange for a doodle poll to identify the venue and time most convenient for a face to face SC meeting. (Timeframe 2 weeks)

Secretariat to circulate amended documents and minutes from this meeting within next 2 weeks for approval.

Agenda Overview

- 1- Opening of the meeting by the GODAN Executive Director.
- 2- Confirmation of Ms Jaime Adams as interim Chair, in light of Dr Woteki' s departure (accepted by the SC).
- 3- Welcoming of the participants, including the representative from Germany, joining the GODAN donor group.
- 4- Review of the previous minutes and decisions
- 5- Presentation of activities/developments that took place since the last SC meeting
- 6- Presentation of the Partnership Engagement Strategy paper
- 7- Presentation of the proposed GODAN Nutrition Strategy: bridging the gap between medical and agricultural nutrition (Guest)
- 8- AOB.
- 9- Tentative dates and venue for the fall SC meeting.
- 10- Closure of the meeting.

Agenda Item 4: Reviewing Decisions from Previous SC

The importance of capitalizing on/making use of the partnerships already established was emphasised (building depth vs breadth)

The SC members acknowledged and support the GODAN Secretariat's intention to become more involved strategically within key partner groups/associations. GODAN will link up with DFID on this issue.

USDA underlined the importance of enhancing member activity in especially large partners with whom GODAN and the Secretariat engaged with early on. We must continue to develop communication tools and mechanisms to deepen engagement of our member base.

In light of the already large size of the partnership the Secretariat should use its platforms to highlight partner activity with a particular focus on partner profiles.

Previous minutes should be adjusted as per the above. (Action Secretariat)

Agenda Item 5: Presentation of activities/developments that took place since the last SC meeting

- **GODAN Secretariat has already been highly active in 2017**, especially focussing on more engagement in less developed countries. A number of categories of partners have been focused on: Universities (PUSH Summit); private sector (GFIA Utrecht and GFIA Abu Dhabi); government (Francophone Africa Summit in Burkina Faso and South-South Summit in Nairobi/ signing of the Nairobi Declaration [15 governments joining]). More representation is being made via champions and ambassadors
- **GODAN Action/CTA:** (update from Chris Addison) The programme is moving forward on work package 1 - standards and gaps in standards. The capacity building working group has created a sub working group that focuses on Africa.
- **Open Data and Statistics/FAO:** (update from Sangita Dubey) FAO expressed its interest in supporting open data initiatives from the statistics perspective. FAO acknowledged support from the Gates Foundation for an open data project it wants to implement in Kenya in collaboration with GODAN. FAO will follow up with the Secretariat for technical advice and practical arrangements.
- **German Federal Ministry for Food and Agriculture (BMEL):** BMEL confirmed that it will fund a 3 year project which deals with legal issues of data protection and responsible use of data in order to support the work of the GODAN Secretariat. An initial analysis will also focus on social economic data rights, in order to develop recommendations on both technology and legal aspects. This project has been developed in collaboration with the GODAN Secretariat. The beneficiary will be KTBL (Association for Technology and Structures in Agriculture) which is a GODAN member. Close cooperation and involvement of GODAN and CABI is envisaged.
- **BMEL also announced a workshop on Linked Open Data in Berlin** on 27/28 September which forms an event during German G20 presidency and is jointly organised by GODAN, KTBL and the Federal Office for Agriculture and Food (BLE), also a GODAN member.

Agenda Item 6: Presentation of the Partnership Engagement Strategy paper

The paper was well received by the SC, with the following recommendations:

In its introduction, a reference should be made to the 2030 Agenda; GODAN s action is very much within the overall SDGs global approach (especially but not exclusively SDG2)

Priorities (point 6) should be presented/listed in light of their relative importance.

A note should be added clarifying that this paper is a strategy paper prepared by the Secretariat and discussed with the SC and selected partners. It is not the result of a complete and exhaustive network consultation.

As part of the priorities, we should make it clearer that we seek to have and make public clear and explicit/tangible partners' commitment (e.g. as a deliverable have a link to policies published)

Agenda Item 7: Presentation of the proposed GODAN Nutrition Strategy: bridging the gap between medical and agricultural nutrition (Sumantra Ray)

This segment was not to present the actual GODAN strategy but rather, to explain the approach; how in partnership with Cambridge/NNEdPro the Secretariat was developing one.

A consultation within the GODAN network has been initiated with all partners who are involved in the field of Nutrition in order to ascertain what needs and opportunities are for data usage in nutrition, especially as it pertains to the interface with agriculture production.

The target date for this survey to be completed and the strategy paper to be completed is the fall of this year.

NNEdPro explained that ultimately the objective is to define mechanisms through which open data in nutrition could be shared across the network and beyond, contributing to better and more nutritious agricultural production and subsequent consumption of ag products.

The need for building up capacities in this area was underlined and the possible convergence/synergy of NNEdPro's IKANN25 and the GODAN Action program were raised as an avenue to be explored.

Interfaces between NNEdPro, GODAN Action (especially IDS) and the development of the Global Nutrition Report were discussed.

On this the SC agreed to the proposed approach. Timeframe: Fall 2017.

Agenda Item 8: AOB

Discussion centred around two themes raised earlier: how to make the GODAN Portal more useful and interactive on one hand, and how to signpost partners and others to make best/easiest use of the increasing mass of information that is being made available within the network.

The GODAN Secretariat has identified key questions that keep emerging from the partner base: Who else is looking for information in a particular theme? How do I find and access relevant datasets? Which events are being organized in the network? What Articles have been produced recently and on what subjects? New datasets? There must be means for partners to communicate their events, articles, etc easily.

It was agreed that there should be a focus on building partner profiles, allowing website visitors to match interests. We should explore how the community can interact directly among each other, especially as the network has grown to a very large size (and still growing). Chris Addison at CTA has significant expertise in this area and offered to support the Secretariat in identifying best channels.

GODAN does not host datasets and we do not want to appear to. Rather, we want to facilitate partners connecting to one another, while making sure they are not flooded with information they don't need nor seek. Other requirements are that this interactive search capacity should be seamlessly integrated in the coming upgrade of the GODAN website, should not be too demanding in terms of funds/costs nor in terms of manpower. Rather, the Secretariat was advised to start small and build up based on actual usage.

Finally, a question came up, especially as we are contemplating direct access from members to their profile, as to how the information they provide can be certified or validated. It was found that while it appears practically impossible to fully assess the quality and veracity of what partners are posting, GODAN's role is basically to provide them for a platform to display their data/knowledge/activities without judging or policing it. However while this question of quality control should continue to be assessed (ODI for instance has been working on this for a while), partners should be encouraged to post their publications and its underlying data using the F1000 portal made available by GODAN.

Agenda Item 9: Next meeting

The next Steering committee meeting should ideally be in person. The Secretariat will circulate a list of large meetings that will take place in the later part of the year as possible suggestions (the goal being to identify one where most SC members will already be present), to be complemented by feedback/suggestions from SC members. Based on inputs received, the Secretariat will release a doodle poll to identify most convenient date and venue.

FAO volunteered to help if the next SC meeting turns out to be in the periphery of the WFD (CFS events) in Rome.

