

G-8 International Conference on Open Data for Agriculture



April 29-30, 2013 | International Finance Corporation | Washington, D.C.

*Open access to publicly funded, agriculturally-relevant data
is critical to increasing global food security*

Quick-Reference Agenda

Monday—April 29, 2013

6:30-8:30am	Registration
8:30-9:30am	Welcome
9:30-10:15am	Lightning Presentations
10:15-10:45am	Networking Break
10:45-11:30am	Lightning Presentations
11:30-1:00pm	Lunch
1:00-2:15pm	Policy Track: G-8 Heads of Delegation Meeting
	Technical Track: Introduction to Open Data – The Technical Details
2:15-2:45pm	Networking Break
2:45-3:45pm	Agricultural Open Data: Implications for Developing Countries
3:45-4:45pm	Good Practice, Access Barriers and Existing Gaps: Deriving needs from an African Perspective
4:45-5:45pm	How recent G8/G20 Research initiatives can contribute to the Open Data for Agriculture System
5:45-6:30pm	Data Announcements
6:30-8:00pm	Reception

Tuesday—April 30, 2013

9:00-9:30am	Welcome
9:30-10:30am	What does Open Data Look Like?
10:30-11:00am	Networking Break
11:00-12:00pm	Making Agricultural Open Data Useful: Interoperability and Accessibility
12:00-1:00pm	Lunch
1:00-2:30pm	Policy Track: G-8 Heads of Delegation Meeting
	Technical Track: Platforms and Technology for Releasing Open Data
2:30-3:00pm	Networking Break
3:00-3:45pm	What is the demand for data for science and for policy in Africa?
3:45-4:30pm	World Bank: Open Data and Global Agricultural Statistics for Use by African Policy Makers
4:30-5:15pm	Delivering on the Value of Agriculturally Relevant Open Data Globally
5:15- 5:45pm	Open Data: Challenges for the Future
5:45 - 6:00pm	Concluding Remarks

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Background

Why this conference?

At the 2012 G-8 Summit, G-8 leaders committed to the *New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition*, the next phase of a shared commitment to achieving global food security.

As part of this commitment, they agreed to “share relevant agricultural data available from G-8 countries with African partners and convene an international conference on Open Data for Agriculture, to develop options for the establishment of a global platform to make reliable agricultural and related information available to African farmers, researchers and policymakers, taking into account existing agricultural data systems.”

See page 6 for the United States’ 2012 release of the G-8 Action on Food Security and Nutrition.

See page 7 for a diagram of the commitments.

What is the goal of the conference?

Obtain action from nations and relevant stakeholders to promote policies and invest in projects that open access to publicly funded global agriculturally relevant data streams, making such data readily accessible to users in Africa and world-wide, and ultimately, supporting a sustainable increase in food security in developed and developing countries.

How can you join the online conversation?

- * Twitter – Follow and discuss the conference by using hashtag **#OpenAgData**
- * Join Us on Storify @ <http://storify.com/USDA/g-8-international-conference-on-open-data-for-agri>
- * Watch live @ <https://sites.google.com/site/g8opendataconference/conference-webinar>
- * Check-in at the International Finance Corporation on Foursquare



Collecting field data on corn growth and development.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

April 18, 2013

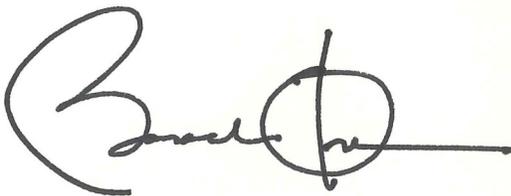
I send greetings to all those attending the G-8 International Conference on Open Data for Agriculture.

In a world where almost one billion people face chronic hunger, we have the potential to transform agriculture—and the lives of those living in poverty. Countries in Africa and across the developing world are taking the lead in crafting comprehensive plans for food security, and the international community is mobilizing to bring more public resources and private capital to the table. Together, we can help smallholder farmers increase their incomes and countries expand their economies, and we can win the fight against hunger and malnutrition.

My Administration is committed to keeping food security at the forefront of our global development efforts. Through initiatives including Feed the Future, we are addressing the root causes of hunger and helping to spur agricultural growth. And in partnership with African nations and fellow G-8 members, we have committed to lifting 50 million people in Africa out of hunger and poverty within a decade through the New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition. As part of that commitment, we must also harness the power of data, technology, and information that can foster increased food security.

Creating a platform to effectively share key data and the tools to analyze it is a critical next step in continuing the fight against hunger and fulfilling the promise of the New Alliance. Through an open data platform, we can enable African farmers, researchers, and policymakers to utilize information that has the potential to transform African agriculture and build brighter, healthier futures for millions around the world.

As you gather to discuss this critical field, I wish you all the best for a productive conference.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be Barack Obama's signature, written in a cursive style.



The White House

Office of the Press Secretary

For Immediate Release

May 18, 2012

Fact Sheet: G-8 Action on Food Security and Nutrition

At the Camp David Summit, G-8 and African leaders will commit to the *New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition*, the next phase of our shared commitment to achieving global food security. In partnership with Africa's people and leaders, our goals are to increase responsible domestic and foreign private investments in African agriculture, take innovations that can enhance agricultural productivity to scale, and reduce the risk borne by vulnerable economies and communities. We recognize and will act upon the critical role played by smallholder farmers, especially women, in transforming agriculture and building thriving economies.

The *New Alliance for Food Security and Nutrition* is a shared commitment to achieve sustained and inclusive agricultural growth and raise 50 million people out of poverty over the next 10 years by aligning the commitments of Africa's leadership to drive effective country plans and policies for food security; the commitments of private sector partners to increase investments where the conditions are right; and the commitments of the G-8 to expand Africa's potential for rapid and sustainable agricultural growth.

We welcome the support of the World Bank and African Development Bank, and of the United Nations' World Food Program, International Fund for Agricultural Development, and Food and Agriculture Organization for the *New Alliance*. We also welcome the successful conclusion of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the context of National Food Security and support the broad-based consultation process and pilot use of the Principles of Responsible Agricultural Investment.

The New Alliance Will Build on and Help Realize the Promise of L'Aquila

Since the L'Aquila Summit, where we committed to "act with the scale and urgency needed to achieve sustainable global food security," we have increased our bilateral and multilateral investments in food security and changed the way we do business, consistent with core principles of aid effectiveness. Based on the findings of the 2012 G-8 Accountability Report and consistent with the Rome Principles on Sustainable Global Food Security, the G-8 will agree to:

- Promptly fulfill outstanding L'Aquila financial pledges and seek to maintain strong support to address current and future global food security challenges, including through bilateral and multilateral assistance;
- Ensure that our assistance is directly aligned behind country plans;
- Strengthen the coordination of G-8 strategies, assistance and programs in-country and with partner countries to increase efficiencies, reduce transaction burdens, and eliminate redundancies and gaps.

The New Alliance will be rooted in partnership

To accelerate national progress in African partner countries, the G-8 will launch *New Alliance* Cooperation Frameworks that align with priority activities within each partner's Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) national investment plan and include predictable funding commitments, specific policy actions, and statements of intent from the private sector.

The G-8 will partner with the African Union, New Partnership for Africa's Development and CAADP to implement the *New Alliance*, and leverage in particular the Grow Africa Partnership, in order to ensure our efforts build on African ownership, yield significant outcomes, and can be replicated across Africa. The G-8 will work together to advance the objectives of the *New Alliance* and G-8 members will support its individual elements on a complementary basis.

To mobilize private capital for food security, the New Alliance will:

- Support the preparation and financing of bankable agricultural infrastructure projects, through multilateral initiatives including the development of a new Fast Track Facility for Agriculture Infrastructure.
- Support the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), with the goal of securing commitments of \$1.2 billion over three years from existing and new donors, scaling up and strengthening the operations of its public and private sector windows and support other mechanisms that improve country ownership and align behind CAADP national investment plans.
- Report on the progress of G-8 development finance institutions in catalyzing additional private investment in African agriculture and increasing the range of financing options and innovative risk mitigation tools available to smallholder farmers and medium-sized agribusinesses.
- Call on the World Bank, in collaboration with other relevant partners, to develop options for generating a Doing Business in Agriculture Index.
- Announce the signing of Letters of Intent from over 45 local and multinational companies to invest over \$3 billion across the agricultural value chain in Grow Africa countries, and the signing by over 60 companies of the *Private Sector Declaration of Support for African Agricultural Development* outlining their commitment to support African agriculture and public-private partnerships in a responsible manner.

To take innovation to scale, the New Alliance will:

- Determine 10-year targets in partner countries for sustainable agricultural yield improvements, adoption of improved production technologies, including improved seed varieties, as well as post-harvest management practices as part of a value-chain approach, and measures to ensure ecological sustainability and safeguard agro-biodiversity.
- Launch a Technology Platform with the Consultative Group on International Agricultural Research, the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa and other partners in consultation with the Tropical Agriculture Platform and the Coalition for African Rice Development (CARD) initiative that will assess the availability of improved technologies for food commodities critical to achieve sustainable yield, resilience, and nutrition impacts, identify current constraints to adoption, and create a roadmap to accelerate adoption of technologies.
- Launch the Scaling Seeds and Other Technologies Partnership, housed at the Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa to strengthen the seed sector and promote the commercialization, distribution and adoption of key technologies improved seed varieties, and other technologies prioritized by the Technology Platform to meet established goals in partner countries.
- Share relevant agricultural data available from G-8 countries with African partners and convene an international conference on Open Data for Agriculture, to develop options for the establishment of a global platform to make reliable agricultural and related information available to African farmers, researchers and policymakers, taking into account existing agricultural data systems.
- Launch an information and communications technology innovation challenge on extension services at the African Union Summit in July 2012.
- Explore opportunities for applying the non-profit model licensing approach that could expand African access to food and nutritional technologies developed by national research institutions.

To reduce and manage risk, the New Alliance will:

- Support the Platform for Agricultural Risk Management (PARM) to complete national agricultural risk assessment strategies, to be conducted by the World Bank and other international institutions in close partnership with *New Alliance* countries, with the mandate of identifying key risks to food and nutrition security and agricultural development and recommending options for managing these risks.
- Create a global action network to accelerate the availability and adoption of agricultural index insurance, in order to mitigate risks to farmers, especially smallholder and women farmers, and increase income and nutritional security. This network will pool data and findings; identify constraints; support regional training and capacity-building; and accelerate the development of instruments appropriate for smallholders and pastoralists.
- Recognize the need for Africa-based sovereign risk management instruments, recognizing the progress by the African Union and its member governments toward creating the African Risk Capacity, a regional risk-pooling facility for drought management.

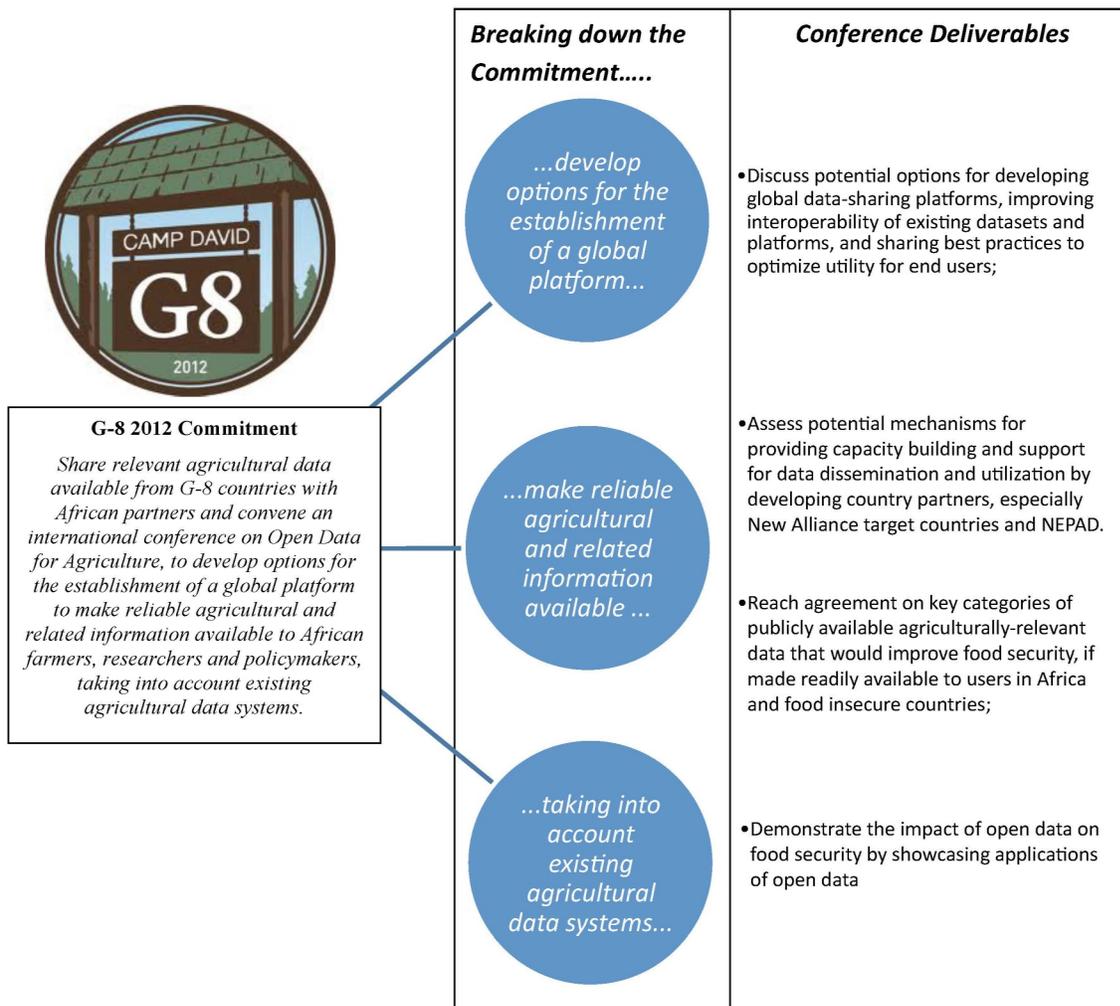
To improve nutritional outcomes and reduce child stunting, the G-8 will:

- Actively support the Scaling Up Nutrition movement and welcome the commitment of African partners to improve the nutritional well-being of their populations, especially during the critical 1,000 days window from pregnancy to a child's second birthday. We pledge that the G-8 members will maintain robust programs to further reduce child stunting.
- Commit to improve tracking and disbursements for nutrition across sectors and ensure coordination of nutrition activities across sectors.
- Support the accelerated release, adoption and consumption of bio-fortified crop varieties, crop diversification, and related technologies to improve the nutritional quality of food in Africa.
- Develop a nutrition policy research agenda and support the efforts of African institutions, civil society and private sector partners to establish regional nutritional learning centers.

To ensure accountability for results, the New Alliance will:

- Convene a Leadership Council to drive and track implementation, which will report to the G-8 and African Union on progress towards achieving the commitments under the *New Alliance*, including commitments made by the private sector.
- Report to the 2013 G-8 Summit on the implementation of the *New Alliance*, including the actions of the private sector, in collaboration with the African Union.

Conference Diagram



Topline Goal: Obtain action from nations and relevant stakeholders to promote policies and invest in projects that open access to publicly funded global agriculturally relevant data streams, making such data readily accessible to users in Africa and world-wide, and ultimately supporting a sustainable increase in food security in developed and developing countries.

Official Delegations

(as of April 24, 2013 | * Head of Delegation)

Australia

Jonathan Palmer, Bureau of Statistics*
Rosalind Harvey, Sense-T
Ian Oppermann, Commonwealth Scientific and industrial Research Organization (CSIRO)
Chris Parker, Agriculture, Fisheries, and Forestry
Matthew Williams, AusAID

Brazil

Ernesto Araújo, Embassy of Brazil to U.S.
Luiz Felipe Schmidt, Embassy of Brazil to U.S.

Burkina Faso

Souleymane Ouedraogo, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security*
Paul Bombiri, Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development
Seydou Bouda, Embassy of Burkina Faso to U.S.
Maimounata Compaoré, Embassy of Burkina Faso to U.S.
Sawadogo Issa, Ministry of Animal and Fishery Resources
Joachim Ouedraogo, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
Lassina Pare, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security
Guissou Richard, Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security

Canada

Robert Turnock, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada*
James Macklin, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada
Stephen Walker, Treasury Board Secretariat

Côte d'Ivoire

Bredoumy Soumaïla Traoré Kouassi, Ministry of Agriculture*
Sionseligam Silue, Ministry of Agriculture

European Commission

Nikiforos Sivenas, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development*
Nicolas Dandois, Directorate-General for Agriculture and Rural Development
Jacques Delincé, Joint Research Center
Giulio Menato, EU Delegation to the U.S.

France

Guillou Marion, AGREENIUM*
Mark Asch, Ministry for Higher Education and Research
Pascal Bonnet, CIRAD
Christian Hoste, AGREENIUM
Frederic Lapeyrie, Ministry for Higher Education and Research
Helene Lucas, INRA
Christophe Malvezin, Embassy of France to U.S.
Jean-Louis Pham, IRD/Agropolis Fondation

Ghana

Kofi Agyeman-Duah, Statistical Service
Sidney Bampoe Addo, Ministry of Food and Agriculture

Germany

Martin Koehler, Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Consumer Protection*
Martin Banse, Theunen-Institute of Market Analysis
Marc Bernard, Federal Office for Agriculture and Food
Michael Bruentrup, German Development Institute
Siegfried Harrer, Federal Office for Agriculture and Food
Joerg Lohmann, Ministry of Economical Cooperation and Development/GIZ
Thomas Schmidt, Embassy of Germany to U.S.
Hartmut Stalb, Federal Ministry of Food, Agriculture, and Consumer Protection

Italy

Carlo Romeo, Embassy of Italy to U.S.*
Stefano Bisoffi, Agricultural Research Council

Japan

Hideaki Chotoku, Ministry of Foreign Affairs*
Takashi Kiyoura, Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology
Naokuni Matsubayashi, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Yuichi Nakamura, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries
Atsushi Shinjo, Government CIO Office
Seiji Tazo, Government CIO Office

Mexico

Brenda Martinez, SAGARPA
Carlos Vazquez, SAGARPA

Mozambique

Antonio Limbau, Ministry of Agriculture*
Ana Maria Alberto, Embassy of the Republic of Mozambique Embassy to U.S.
Amelia Bumbana, Embassy of the Republic of Mozambique to U.S.

Russia

Valery Khromchenkov, Embassy of the Russian Federation to U.S. *

Official Delegations

United States of America

Tom Vilsack, Department of Agriculture*

Catherine Woteki, Department of Agriculture*

Bradley Doorn, National Aeronautics and Space Administration

Myron Gutmann, National Science Foundation

Jolyne Sanjak, Millennium Challenge Corporation

Jonathan Shrier, Department of State

Kathryn Sullivan, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Association

Paul Weisenfeld, Agency for International Development

United Kingdom

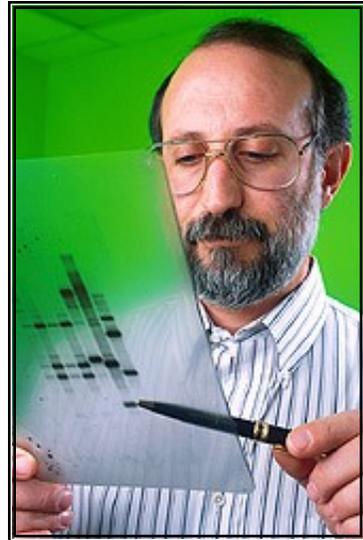
Tim Wheeler, Department for International Development*

Kerry Albright, Department for Environmental, Food, and Rural Affairs

Margaret Gill, Department for International Development

Alan Tollervey, Department for International Development

Elizabeth Warham, Government Office for Science



Molecular biologist examines autoradiographic data to confirm the proper construction of reagents for studying changes in bovine and swine cytokine transcription.



Collecting data on rainfall intensities, solar radiation, minimum and maximum air temperatures, and windspeed gathered from weather stations.

Exhibit Hall

April 29, 2013—Monday

World Bank

Louis Koua Kouakou and Vladimir Eskin, African Open Data

Sara Gustafson/ Lauren Deason/ Kathryn Kincheloe Food Security Portal, IFPRI CGIAR

Shaifali Puri/ Chenelle Bonavito/ Meredith Perry, Scientists Without Borders

Kevin Gandhi, Digital Green

Terri Lagarde and Dr. Denise McWilliams USDA/FAS & TBD NASA, GEO-GLAM

Howard Shapiro Paola deAlmedia, Nicole Nice, Ryan Bowling Mars, Inc.

Paul Parker, Farm Defenders, Phil Parker, INSEAD, Sean Obetz, ICON Group

April 30, 2013—Tuesday

World Bank

Josef Schmidhuber and Fabio Grita UN/FAO

Alex Roth, Amazon Web Services

Patricia Neenan, CABI Plantwise

Jane Fife and Tesema Chekol, Battelle, and Joe Russo Zedx Ag3S sk Mapping Concept

Marcus Glassman and Caroline Smith DeWaal, CSPI, Foodborne Illness Outbreak Data for Africa

Greg Crosby and Jane Clary, U.S. Cooperative Extension System; eXtension

Abigail Ofstedahl, Elena Rodriguez, and Caroline Thomas, University of Texas at Austin

Conference Agenda

April 29, 2013—Monday

All conference proceedings will take place in the IFC Auditorium unless otherwise noted.

Time	Title
Exhibit Hall All Day	World Bank IFPRI / CGIAR Digital Green Mars, Inc. African Open Data Scientists Without Borders GEO-GLAM Farm Defenders/ INSEAD / ICON Group
8:30- 9:30am	Welcome Chris Vein, World Bank, Conference Emcee Secretary Vilsack, U.S. Department of Agriculture Bill Gates, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation (by video) Dr. Rachel Kyte, Vice President, World Bank Todd Park, Chief Technology Officer, White House
9:30-10:15am	Lightning Presentations Kevin Gandhi, Digital Green Videos Dr. Philip Parker, INSEAD Chair Professor Paul Parker, Columbia University Sean Obetz, ICON Group International Soonho Kim, IFPRI CGIAR Shaifali Puri, Scientists Without Borders
10:15-10:45am	Networking Break-Out eXtension www.extension.org Dan Cotton, eXtension
10:45-11:30am	Lightning Presentations Dr. Howard Shapiro, Mars Inc. Vladimir Eskin, AfDB Dr. Christopher Justice, GEO-GLAM Dr. Patricio Grassini, University of Nebraska-Lincoln Charles Iceland, World Resource Institute Dr. Tad Sonstegard, USDA
11:30am-1:00pm	Lunch Chicago Council on Global Affairs www.thechicagocouncil.org Information is Power: How science, innovation, and open source data can transform global fight against hunger and poverty Moderator: Dr. Marshall Bouton, President, Chicago Council on Global Affairs Speakers: Margaret M. Zeigler, Ph.D., Executive Director, Global Harvest Initiative Dr. Derek Yach, Executive Director, The Vitality Institute Dr. Jason Clay, Senior Vice President, Markets, World Wildlife Fund
1:00-2:15pm	Heads of G-8 Delegation Meeting (Closed to Press) Room: L-106

Conference Agenda

Monday—April 29, 2013

All conference proceedings will take place in the IFC Auditorium unless otherwise noted.

Time	Title
1:00-2:15pm	<p>Introduction to Open Data – The Technical Details What makes data open and why are governments interested in sharing it? From creating economic value to improving services to citizens, the ability for governments to publish open data is essential in today’s environment. Learn the basics of how this is happening around the world today, and what benefits governments are seeing in opening agricultural data to entrepreneurs, researchers, farmers, citizens, businesses, and other governments. Moderator: Chris Vein, The World Bank Speakers: Nick Sinai, Deputy Chief Technology Officer, The White House Dr. Steven Walker, CIO, Treasury Board, Canada Dr. Ian Opperman, CSIRO, Australia Dan Brickley, Schema.org, Google Andy Isaacson, Palantir Dr. Aboubacar Diaby, AGRA</p>
2:15-2:45pm	<p>Networking Break-Out Sense-T www.Sense-T.org.au An Australian Open Data Platform Bringing the Power of Big Data to Communities Ros Harvey, Founding Director, Sense-T</p>
2:45-3:45pm	<p>Agricultural Open Data: Implications for Developing Countries Governments in developed countries are working hard to make agriculture data open for others and accessible to farmers. This panel will focus on the implications of open data, potentially a significant resource for developing countries working to help poor farmers increase their productivity. Moderator: Julie Howard, Chief Scientist, USAID Speakers: Antonio Limbau, Deputy Minister for Agriculture, Mozambique Hirano Katsumi, Area Studies Center, Japan Stanley Wood, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation Sean Krepp, Grameen AppLab, Uganda</p>
3:45-4:45pm	<p>Good Practice, Access Barriers and Existing Gaps – Deriving Needs from an African Perspective This session combines past experiences on existing information systems in Africa with an outline for data needs from the perspective of different African target groups. Data acquisition, analysis and interpretation and feedbacks between providers and users of the planned database is not only an administrative but also a scientific task. Together with colleagues from Africa the session addresses the availability, accessibility and usability of relevant data on production, resources, conditions (weather, environmental, water availability, soil quality, etc.), markets, prices and food security of different types of households. Moderator: Martin Banse, Director and Professor, Thünen Institute, Germany Speakers: Martin Köhler, Director, Ministry of Agriculture, Germany Emmanuel Tambi, FARA, Ghana Dorcas Mwakoi, Agricultural Sector Coordination Unit, Kenya Jörg Lohmann, GIZ, Germany</p>

Conference Agenda

April 29, 2013—Monday

All conference proceedings will take place in the IFC Auditorium unless otherwise noted.

Time	Title
4:45-5:45pm	<p>How Recent G-8/G-20 Research Initiatives can Contribute to the Open Data for Agriculture System</p> <p>Following a short presentation of relevant G8/G20 initiatives, each speaker will analyze the ways this initiative will/could contribute to Open Data for Agriculture. Furthermore, the conditions for this initiative to benefit from Open Data for Agriculture should be discussed. A wrap-up round table discussion at the end of the session should highlight key messages.</p> <p>Moderator: Marion Guillou, Chair of Agreenium, Agriculture Chief Scientist, France</p> <p>Speakers: Sarah Lawan, On behalf of Ibrahim Mayaki, CEO, NEPAD Barbara Ryan, Secretariat Director, Intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations H�el�ene Lucas, International Scientific Coordinator, The Wheat Initiative Joseph Glauber, President, Agricultural Market Information System Christian Hoste, Chair of interim Steering Committee, Tropical Agriculture Platform</p>
5:45-6:30pm	Announcements
6:30-8:00pm	<p>Reception (Atrium) CropLife International www.croplifeinternational.org</p> <p>Research Partnerships for Agricultural Development & Innovation (Auditorium) Dr. Robert Thompson, Paul H Nitze School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University</p>



Collecting data from a real-time PCR assay

Conference Agenda

April 30, 2013—Tuesday

All conference proceedings will take place in the IFC Auditorium unless otherwise noted.

Time	Title
Exhibit Hall All Day	World Bank eXtension Battelle /Ag3S CABI Plantwise United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization Amazon Web Services CSPI, Foodborne Illness Outbreak Data for Africa University of Texas at Austin
9:00-9:30am	Welcome Dr. Kathryn Sullivan, Acting Under Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere and Acting NOAA Administrator
9:30-10:30am	What does Open Data Look Like? This session will provide some case studies of the use of open data to illustrate some of the issues associated with presentation of the data in a way which optimizes its usefulness for end-users. It will consider different types of data, guiding principles, and different uses of data, including both research data and national agricultural data-sets. Moderator: Tim Benton, Champion, UK Global Food Security Programme, UK Speakers: Johannes Keizer, Team Leader, FAO United Nations, Italy Dr. Sander Janssen, Wageningen, Netherlands Dr. Rajeev Varshney, Director, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, India Mr. Marc Bernard, Federal Agency for Agriculture and Food, Bonn, Germany
10:30-11:00am	Networking Break-Out Global Harvest Initiative www.globalharvestinitiative.org Open Data Productivity Growth Margaret M. Zeigler, Ph.D., Executive Director, Global Harvest Initiative Richard Kottmeyer, Global Ag and Food Production Leader, Accenture
11:00-12:00pm	Making Agricultural Open Data Useful: Interoperability and Accessibility Providing open data is the first step to using open data, but it also needs to be clear, well structured, and accessible to developers, researchers, and analysts to create meaningful value. This session helps to clearly explain the importance and approach to making data accessible and interoperable. This sets in place the capabilities for looking at international, cross-border analysis and intelligence to support food security issues from climate change to crop viability. Moderator: Jeanne Holm, Data.gov, USA Speakers: Danielle Gould, Food + Tech, USA Jimmy Wambua, MFarm, Kenya Professor Jim Hendler, RPI, USA Edwin Opare, Technical Lead and Open Data Evangelist, Ghana Open Data Initiative, Ghana Chris Greer, Associate Director, IT Lab, NIST, USA
12:00-1:00pm	Lunch Syngenta www.ricebowlindex.com The Rice Bowl Index: Open Data, Open Dialogue Andrew McConville, Head of Corporate Affairs, Syngenta Asia Pacific, Singapore Richard Leggett, CEO, Frontier Strategy Group, USA
1:00-2:30pm	G-8 Heads of Delegation Meeting (Closed to Press) Room: L-106

Conference Agenda

Tuesday—April 30, 2013

All conference proceedings will take place in the IFC Auditorium unless otherwise noted.

Time	Title
1:00-2:30pm	<p>Platforms and Technology for Releasing Open Data This session will consider some of the technical aspects of sharing different types of data. Examples will be given of challenges encountered and overcome in relation to improving the interoperability of existing datasets and platforms. Data infrastructure solutions and services that facilitate integrated access to existing data sources by wide user communities will be presented. Moderator: James Macklin, Research Scientist, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada, Canada Speakers: Paul Kersey, Coordinator, Trans-national Infrastructure for Plant Genomic Science (transPLANT), Framework 7 Program, European Union; Lead, Ensembl Genomes, European Bioinformatics Institute, Cambridge, UK Pankaj Jaiswal, Oregon State University Dr Josef Schmidhuber, Deputy Director of FAO Statistics Division Group, Italy Miguel Angel Sicilia, University of Alcalá, Spain Jacques Delince, Unit Head, JRC, EC, Spain Jawoo Koo, Research Fellow, IFPRI</p>
2:30-3:00pm	<p>Networking Break (no presentation)</p>
3:00-3:45pm	<p>What is the Demand for Data for Science and for Policy in Africa? We need to fully understand the demand for data from Africa if we are to design and implement effective ways of sharing information. The session will hear from a number of prominent and innovative thinkers, who will explore the challenges facing African agriculture and how we can understand and meet the demand for the right information that addresses them. Moderator: Prof. Tim Wheeler, Deputy Chief Scientific Adviser, DFID, UK Speakers: Prof. Maggie Gill, Senior Research Fellow at DFID, UK Aaron Clapp, Hubbard Decision Research, USA Prof. Tim Benton, Head of Global Food Security Programme, UK Trevor Nicholls, the CEO of CABI, UK</p>
3:45-4:30pm	<p>Open Data and Global Agricultural Statistics for Use by African Policy Makers A panel will discuss constraints and political realities of data sharing and implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agriculture and Rural Statistics. Panelists will also address how governments and other policy makers may analyze, use, and deploy knowledge gained from open data and what the anticipated benefits may be for African countries.</p>
4:30-5:15pm	<p>Delivering on the Value of Agricultural Open Data Globally Leveraging the Value of Scientific Open Data from the Research Laboratory to the Field This session demonstrates the impact of genomic and genetics open data on food security and showcases applications of open data. The session starts with the use of open data to strengthen corn and cassava improvement in Africa and moves to promising new international alliances to expand accessibility to open data to protect crops from disease and climate change. The session ends with future ideas on delivery of open data to scientists and farmers via both computer and cell phone. Moderator: Kay Simmons, Deputy Administrator, USDA Speakers: Edward Buckler, Research Geneticist, USDA Katherine Kahn, Senior Program Officer, Agricultural Development, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, USA Chiedozie Egesi, National Root Crops Research Institute, Nigeria Dan Stanzione, Deputy Director, Industrial Programs Group, Texas Advanced Computing Center; Principal Investigator, iPLANT Collaborative, USA</p>
5:15-5:45pm	<p>Open Data: Challenges for the Future Leveraging Open Data to Accelerate the Development and Delivery of Farmer-Preferred Products and Services in Africa David Bergvinson, Dep. Director, Digital Design for Agriculture, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation,</p>
5:45-6:00pm	<p>Concluding Remarks Shaida Badiee, Director, Development Economics Data Group, World Bank</p>

Speaker Biographies

Alphabetically by Last Name

Badiee, Shaida: Shaida Badiee directs the department that produces the World Bank's statistical products, with her work focused on economic information systems to gather and share data among the Bank's member countries and partners. She is the champion for the Open Data Initiative and responsible for the data.worldbank.org containing popular statistical publications such as the World Development Indicators, as well as the World Bank Atlas, and the Global Development Finance.

Bakaltchev, Nikolay: Nikolay Bakaltchev wants people to know that Public Data Sets on Amazon Web Services (AWS) provides a centralized repository of public data sets that can be seamlessly integrated into AWS cloud-based applications. AWS is hosting the public data sets at no charge for the community, and like all AWS services, users pay only for the compute and storage they use for their own applications.

Baker, Justin: Justin Baker is a graduate student at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin. He works as a research assistant on tracking international development aid for climate change adaptation and food security under the Climate Change and African Political Stability (CCAPS) program at the Robert S. Strauss Center for International Security and Law.

Becker-Reshef, Inbal: Dr. Inbal Becker-Reshef is an Assistant Research Professor in the Department of Geographical Sciences at University of Maryland. She manages the Global Agricultural Monitoring activities at UMD, leading efforts on crop yield forecasting, agricultural drought monitoring and national capacity development. She is actively involved in the G-20 GEOGLAM initiative aimed at strengthening international capacity for producing and disseminating timely and accurate agricultural production forecasts through the use of earth observations.

Benton, Tim: Tim Benton is the “Champion” for the UK’s Global Food Security program, leading, facilitating, and coordinating its activities. The Global Food Security program is a partnership of the UK’s main public funders of research in food security, including the research councils and government departments. Tim is also a leading researcher, based at the University of Leeds, on agri-environment interactions.

Bergvinson, David: Dr. David Bergvinson is the Deputy Director for Digital Design within the Gates Foundation’s Agricultural Development team, overseeing efforts to leverage digital technologies to accelerate the development and delivery of products, services, and knowledge to help millions of the world’s poorest farming families boost their productivity and incomes.

Bonavito, Chenelle: Chenelle Bonavito is the Program Associate at Scientists Without Borders and brings an incisive talent for researching, analyzing, and crystallizing complex global issues for our landscaping and challenge framing process. Chenelle manages the Ethiopia Project at the National Committee on American Foreign Policy and is the Research Director for the Institute for Conscious Global Change.

Bouton, Marshall: Marshall Bouton has been president of The Chicago Council on Global Affairs since 2001. Prior to that, he served as the executive vice president and chief operating officer of the Asia Society. His previous positions included director for policy analysis for Near East, Africa and South Asia in the Department of Defense, special assistant to the U.S. ambassador to India, and executive secretary for the Indo-U.S. Subcommittee on Education and Culture.

Brickley, Dan: Dan Brickley is a Developer Advocate at Google, focusing on collaboratively developed Web standards for structured data and search, such as schema.org and RDFa. Prior to joining Google he was an early contributor to W3C's RDF, Semantic Web and metadata work, helping create RDF/S, FOAF, SKOS and other acronyms that support the use of Linked Open Data for information sharing.

Speaker Biographies

Alphabetically by Last Name

Buckler, Edward: Dr. Edward S. Buckler is a Research Geneticist at the USDA-ARS and an Adjunct Professor of Plant Breeding and Genetics at Cornell University. His research focuses on developing genomic, statistical, bioinformatic, and germplasm resources to scan plant genomes for functional natural variants using genetic mapping.

Chekol, Tesema: Dr. Tesema Chekol is currently a Senior Research Scientist with Battelle Memorial Institute where he has managed various biological and environmental projects. Before joining Battelle, Dr. Chekol was a research staff member of the University of Maryland where he conducted numerous agricultural and natural resources projects. He has also served as Senior Consulting Research Scientist with Partnership for African Environmental Sustainability (PAES) in Uganda and Research Officer II with the Institute of Agricultural Research in Ethiopia.

Clapp, Aaron: Aaron Clapp is a Senior Analyst at Hubbard Decision Research. He spent six years as an assistant professor in the Department of Chemical & Biological Engineering at Iowa State University where he supervised graduate research in the areas of nanotechnology, colloidal science, and biomedical engineering. Prior to his time at Iowa State, he was a National Research Council postdoctoral fellow at the Naval Research Laboratory in Washington, D.C.

Clary, Jane: Jane Clary is the National Program Leader for nutrition/extension for the National Institute of Food and Agriculture, USDA. She specializes in community nutrition and health and technology based nutrition and health education for young families with children to help combat childhood obesity.

Clay, Jason: Dr. Jason Clay is WWF-US's SVP for Market Transformation. He is a thought leader in the NGO community for global trends, supply chain management issues, and partnering and convening multi-stakeholder groups to work together on pre-competitive issues. He created one of the world's first ecolabels and helped develop standards for more than a dozen commodities through multi-stakeholder processes that reduce the impacts of production.

Crosby, Gregory: Gregory Crosby is on the U.S. Cooperative Extension System's eXtension System Governing Committee and on the Global Partnership on Nutrient Management (GPNM) steering committee. He co-chairs the Turkey/US Ag Innovations Working Group and is a member of the U.S. Delegation to UN Conference on Sustainable Development. Other memberships include the (Rio+20), AGRA/USDA Implementation Team, the National Research Council, Climate Change Education Roundtable, and a member of the USDA Council for Sustainable Development.

Cotton, Dan: Dan Cotton is the Executive Director of the National eXtension Initiative, an Internet-based educational network integral to the work of the Cooperative Extension System. Prior to working for eXtension, Cotton served as Director of Communications and Information Technology for the Institute of Agriculture and Natural Resources at the University of Nebraska.

Deason, Lauren: Lauren Deason is a Senior Research Analyst at the International Food Policy Research Institute and is also pursuing a PhD in Economics at the University of Maryland, College Park. Her research focuses on International Trade and she has previously held positions at the World Bank, International Trade Commission, World Trade Organization, and the Bureau of the Census.

Speaker Biographies

Alphabetically by Last Name

Delince, Jacques: Jacques Delince joined the European Commission's services in 1987. In 2001, he became Head of the Joint Research Center (JRC) Unit "Agriculture and Fisheries," dedicating his scientific activities to crop yield prediction, satellite monitoring of agriculture, and maritime surveillance. He is leading a JRC Unit of agricultural economists in charge of impact analysis of the Agriculture, Trade and Development of EU Policies.

DeWaal, Caroline Smith: Caroline Smith DeWaal is the director of the food safety program for the Center for Science in the Public. She has presented papers on food safety at over 100 scientific and public policy conferences and regularly publishes in scientific and legal journals. She has participated in a number of World Health Organization consultations on food safety, as well as FDA, USDA and CDC advisory panels.

Diaby, Aboubacar: Aboubacar Diaby joined AGRA as a Program Officer in the M&E Unit in 2012. He has more than 8 years of experiences in Monitoring and Evaluation of development programs with particular focus on agriculture, food security, and natural resources management. He has developed and managed the M&E system for development projects funded by USAID and AFD (French Development Agency).

Egesi, Chiedozie: Chiedozie Egesi is an assistant director and head of cassava breeding at the National Root Crops Research Institute (NRCRI) in Umudike, Nigeria. His research activities involve the use of cross-cutting biotechnology tools in the genetic improvement of cassava including transgenic technologies.

Eskin, Vladimir: Vladimir Eskin is an executive of PROGNOZ, a Business Intelligence software company based in Washington, D.C. Dr. Eskin works extensively with international organizations such as the World Bank, IMF, OECD, WHO, and the African Development Bank. Recently, Dr. Eskin participated in capacity building efforts for Statistics and Data Transparency for all African countries on behalf of the African Development Bank.

Fife, Jane Patterson: Dr. Jane Patterson Fife is a Sr. Research Scientist at Battelle Memorial Institute. Dr. Fife has a background in Agricultural and Biosystems Engineering and her most recent work focuses on applying a science-based, data-driven probabilistic approach for assessing risk to agricultural systems and the development of flexible desktop tools to support emergency planning, decision-making and cost-benefit analyses.

Gandhi, Kevin: Kevin Gandhi is a member of Digital Green. His primary role at Digital Green as a field officer is working with farmers in Madhya Pradesh, India. Currently, he is studying global and environmental health at Yale University.

Glassman, Marcus: Marcus Glassman is a Research Associate for the Food Safety Program at the Center for Science in the Public Interest in Washington, DC. He joined CSPI in 2012 and has experience with governmental, industry, and NGO-based agriculture and global health programs. He has an M.S. in public health microbiology from the George Washington University and a B.A. in anthropology from Purdue University.

Glauber, Joseph: Joseph Glauber currently serves as Chief Economist at the Department of Agriculture (USDA). As Chief Economist, he is responsible for the Department's agricultural forecasts and projections and for advising the Secretary of Agriculture on economic implications of alternative programs, regulations, and legislative proposals.

Speaker Biographies Alphabetically by Last Name

Gould, Danielle: Danielle Gould is the Founder & CEO of Food+Tech Connect, the industry-leading media company and network for innovators transforming the business of food. Through news and analysis, events, and custom research, she helps companies of all sizes drive innovation and understand how information and technology are changing the way food is produced, distributed and consumed.

Grassini, Patricio: Dr. Patricio Grassini is Research Assistant Professor at University of Nebraska-Lincoln. He has authored 10 journal papers, co-authored 2 book chapters and many papers in proceedings of major conferences. His research interests center on crop physiology, crop yield potential, resource- and energy-use efficiency in cropping systems, and simulation modeling. A major on-going project is to develop a Global Yield Gap Atlas that provides estimates of gaps between actual and potential yields for major crops.

Greer, Chris: Dr. Chris Greer is Associate Director in the Information Technology Laboratory at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) and Acting Senior Advisor for Cloud Computing. Prior to joining NIST, Dr. Greer served as Assistant Director for Information Technology R&D in the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy.

Grita, Fabio: Fabio Grita is the founder and coordinator of the FENIX software platform developed by the Statistics Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). He is the creator and implementer of the Global Administrative Unit Layers (GAUL), which aims at compiling and disseminating the most reliable spatial data on administrative units for all countries in the world.

Gustafson, Sara: Sara Gustafson is a Communications Specialist with the Markets, Trade, and Institutions Division at IFPRI. She acts as content manager for the Food Security Portal, a clearinghouse of data and tools for global food security.

Harvey, Rosalind: Rosalind Harvey is the Founding Director of Sense-T based in Tasmania, Australia. Sense-T is the world's first economy-wide intelligent sensor network. Ms Harvey previously founded the global program Better Work, a partnership program between the International Labour Organization and the International Finance Corporation, which is internationally recognized as a landmark in corporate social responsibility, global supply chains, and pro-poor development.

Hendler, James: James Hendler is a Professor of Computer and Cognitive Science and the Head of the Computer Science Department at RPI. Hendler is the former Chief Scientist of Information Systems at DARPA and is a former member of the U.S. Air Force Science Advisory. In 2012, he was one of the inaugural recipients of the Strata Conference "Big Data" awards for his work on large-scale open government data.

Hirano, Katsumi: Katsumi Hirano is the Chief Senior Researcher at the Institute of Developing Economies (IDE-JETRO) in Japan. He is a specialist of African Studies and formerly served as the Director General of IDE-JETRO and the Executive Director of the JETRO Johannesburg Center. In addition to being a special assistant of the Embassy of Japan in Zimbabwe, he has published several books and articles in Japanese and English.

Holm, Jeanne: Jeanne Holm is the Evangelist for Data.Gov and leads collaboration and builds communities with the public, educators, developers, and international and state governments in using open government data. (Data.gov is a flagship open government initiative for the Obama Administration, managed by GSA.) Jeanne is the Chief Knowledge Architect at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

Speaker Biographies

Alphabetically by Last Name

Hoste, Christian: Dr. Christian Hoste is an engineer in agriculture. His experience includes 17 years on livestock research and development in sub-Saharan Africa and 18 years in agricultural research organization and management. He is Deputy Director and Director of International Relations of Agreenium and is the Chair of the interim Steering Committee of the G20 Tropical Agriculture Platform (TAP) initiative.

Howard, Julie: Julie A. Howard is the chief scientist in the Bureau for Food Security, which leads the implementation of Feed the Future, the U.S. global hunger and food security initiative. She also serves as the senior advisor to the USAID administrator on agricultural research, extension and education.

Iceland, Charles: Charles Iceland, CFA, is a Senior Associate with WRI's Markets & Enterprise Program. Charles currently manages the Aqueduct Alliance.

Isaacson, Andy: Andy Isaacson is well versed in the challenges that is integrating big government data sets present. Most recently, his work has focused on Palantir Technology's philanthropic deployments, including projects to combat human trafficking, monitor the spread of disease, and explore the landscape of services for veterans. He has developed software used throughout the intelligence community, law enforcement, and defense sectors.

Jaiswal, Pankaj: Pankaj Jaiswal is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Botany and Plant pathology at Oregon State University. Currently, he is leading the international effort on building common reference vocabularies for plant biology and is a co-investigator on the NSF funded plant comparative genomics database projects called Gramene and Plant Ontology.

Janssen, Sander: Dr. Sander Janssen is currently working as a team leader at Wageningen University Research Centre and at Earth Informatics. He is co-lead in the AgMIP IT team, involved in the global yield gap atlas, and designing the next generation open (spatial) data portals through research projects as LIAISE, Trees4Future, and Semagrow.

Justice, Chris: Dr. Chris Justice is currently the Chair of the Department of Geographical Sciences at the University of Maryland. He is Co-chair of the GEO-Agricultural Monitoring Task and Program Scientist for the NASA Land Cover Land Use Change Program. He is studying the extent and impacts of global agricultural drought and has been instrumental in the development of the GEOGLAM initiative endorsed by the G-20 Agricultural Ministers.

Kahn, Katherine: Dr. Katherine Kahn is a Senior Program Officer in the Agricultural Development group at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation. She manages several international partnerships for innovation and crop improvement, co-funded with the U.S. National Science Foundation, the UK Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council, and the UK Department for International Development. Kathy trained as a plant biologist.

Keizer, Johannes: Johannes Keizer is working with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the UN. For the last 10 years, he has lead the AIMS team. (Agricultural Information Management Standards and Services). Before turning his interest to the management of scientific data, he worked as a research fellow on ecotoxicological aspects of organo-phosphorous pesticides. He is member of the Dublin Core Advisory Board.

Kersey, Paul: Paul Kersey began his scientific career working on the molecular biology of fission yeast. He has worked at the European Bioinformatics Institute and has been responsible for the operation of Ensemble Plants. He is the coordinator of transPLANT, an EC FP7 project to unify European efforts in plant genomics.

Speaker Biographies Alphabetically by Last Name

Kim, Soonho: Soonho Kim is working for International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) as a Web portal Specialist. She is an expert on Linked Open Data and Semantic Web combining with Content Management System. Prior to Joining IFPRI, she has worked as an Information management specialist in Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

Kincheloe, Kathryn: Kathryn Kincheloe is a Senior Research Assistant at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). In this position, Kathryn conducts research on the impact of trade liberalization on gender. She also provides data and resource support for AGRODEP. She holds a B.A. in Economics and an M.S. in Agricultural and Consumer Economics, both from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Koo, Jawoo: Dr. Jawoo Koo is a Research Fellow at International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI), working as a crop systems modeler at IFPRI's Environment and Production Technology Division. Jawoo leads biophysical modeling research and spatial analysis activities of the Harvest Choice project (harvestchoice.org), which generates knowledge products for agricultural research and development partners and donor community to make better informed strategic decisions in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Kottmeyer, Rich: Rich Kottmeyer is a global leader in agriculture, food and consumerology. He is an expert on meeting the growing challenge of closing the food gap through a series of process improvements, better decision making and change management starting with producers, ranchers and growers. Rich leads global food security/Food 2040 analysis and strategy for many of the largest global agricultural companies globally.

Kouakou, Louis: Louis Kouakou is a statistician at the African Development Bank and he is in charge of the data dissemination in the statistics department of the Bank. The goal of the project is to install an integrated data management and dissemination system in all 54 African Countries, 9 Regional and Sub-regional organizations, and 6 Statistical Training Centers by this year.

Krepp, Sean: Sean Krepp has overall responsibility for Grameen Foundation's operations and programs in Uganda, ensuring the ongoing delivery of impact, while scaling and developing sustainable business models for the CKW initiative and new AppLab Uganda initiatives. From 2008-2010, Sean served as Head of Emerging Market Services, Middle East and Africa, at Nokia, where he and his team developed mobile services such as Nokia Ovi's Life Tools, aimed at supporting poor farmers and their families with mobile services in agriculture, education, and health.

Lagarde, Terri: Terri Lagarde is an Administrative Assistant/Contracting Officer Representative for the USDA.

Lawan, Sarah: Sarah Lawan is the Special Liaison Officer of the New Partnership for Africa's Development NEPAD Agency in New York. She facilitates relations between the United Nations system and international organizations in the U.S. and the NEPAD Agency Headquarters located in Midrand, South Africa. Mrs. Lawan started her collaboration with the technical body of the African Union by working towards strengthening an African Voice in international negotiations.

Leggett, Richard: Richard Leggett is a recognized business leader with 20 years of global information and financial services experience. Prior to FSG, Richard served as Chairman and CEO of Business Intelligence Advisors (BIA), an independent investment research, advisory, and analytics firm. He serves on the Board of Alpha-Sense, a privately-held financial analytics company and the Advisory Board for NYC Outward Bound. (Chief Executive Officer)

Speaker Biographies

Alphabetically by Last Name

Lucas, Hélène: Hélène Lucas is the International Scientific Coordinator of the Wheat Initiative endorsed by the G-20 member states in their 2011 Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture. She also chairs the Managing Board of the French “Green Biotech” public-private partnership and has headed the Genetics and Plant Breeding Division of the French National Institute for Agricultural Research for 7 years.

Luther, Sharon Forsythe: Sharon Forsythe Luther wants people to know that Amazon Web Services offers a complete set of infrastructure and application services that enable you to run virtually everything in the cloud: from enterprise applications and big data projects to social games and mobile apps. One of the key benefits of cloud computing is the opportunity to replace up-front capital infrastructure expenses with low variable costs that scale with your business.

McConville, Andrew: Andrew McConville has been Head of Corporate Affairs for Syngenta Asia Pacific since 2008. Based in Singapore, he is responsible for managing the company’s reputation and stakeholder relationships across the region through Government and Public Affairs, Public Policy and Partnerships, Media Relations, Internal Communications, Community Relations, Corporate Responsibility, and Issues and Crisis Management.

McWilliams, Denise: Dr. Denise McWilliams is the crop production analyst for USDA-Foreign Agricultural Service with the Office of Global Analysis. She has worked with satellite imagery at USDA for over five years. Covering several countries in South America, she provides information to the World Board for global commodity production estimates.

Miguel-Angel, Sicilia: Sicilia Miguel-Angel is currently a professor at the Computer Science Department of the University of Alcalá (Madrid), Spain. He is the coordinator of the agINFRA EU project on data infrastructures for agriculture, and his research currently focuses on semantics and e-science. He is also a board member and Linked Open Data TG leader in EuroCRIS, the organization that promotes the standards in Europe for scientific information

Mwakoi, Dorcas: Dorcas Mwakoi is a Kenyan Citizen with over 17 years of working experience in agriculture, agribusiness, and rural development project with a view to contributing to poverty reduction. She is currently the Kenya Focal Person for the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme and also a Senior Programme Officer for the Kenya’s Agricultural Sector.

Neenan, Patricia: Patricia Neenan is the Head of Strategic Partnerships - Americas and is responsible for coordinating all of CABI’s activities in the areas of International Development, Bioscience and Publishing in North America. She has provided training on information use in Africa, Europe, Asia and North America. She is a former Director of USAIN (the United States Agricultural Information Network).

Nicholls, Trevor: Trevor Nicholls has been Chief Executive Officer of CABI since 2005. Under Trevor’s leadership, CABI has developed a strategic focus on providing knowledge to enable poor rural farmers in the developing world to grow more, raise quality, and increase income. CABI is leading Plantwise, a global initiative to increase global food security by reducing losses to pests and diseases.

Obetz, Sean: Sean Obetz is a senior developer at ICON Group International, a publisher that specializes in digital content creation, especially in underserved languages. He works to create useful content for radio, education, soil, climate, and weather resources targeted at the developing world.

Speaker Biographies

Alphabetically by Last Name

Ofstedahl, Abigail: Abigail Ofstedahl is an MA student at the LBJ School of Public Affairs. Ms. Ofstedahl previously served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Burkina Faso. She is currently a Research Assistant at the Climate Change in African Political Stability research center and a Research Fellow at the AidData Center for Policy Development. Her research interests include international development and aid, food security, and agriculture policy analysis.

Opere, Edwin: Edwin Opere is a Russian trained Computer Engineer and an Open Data advocate. Edwin currently works with the National Information Technology Agency (NITA) as the Technical Manager of the NITA Computer Emergency Response Team and also the Technical Lead and Open Data Evangelist for the Ghana Open Data Initiative.

Oppermann, Ian: Dr. Ian Oppermann was appointed on 1 July 2012 to the role of Australia's national science agency, CSIRO, Director of the newest Flagship for Digital Productivity and Services. CSIRO's Digital Productivity and Services Flagship addresses major scientific challenges in Wireless Communications, Government and Commercial Services, Robotics, Information Theory, environmental sensing and Health Services.

Parker, Paul: Paul Parker is the lead designer for Farm Defenders 3D and is currently a graduate student at Columbia University. Farm Defenders is a 3D farm simulation game spanning the entire continent of Africa. The simulation is realistic to the details of the local soil type, weather, and natural challenges.

Parker, Philip: Dr. Philip M. Parker is the INSEAD Chair Professor of Management Science and is now working on generating impactful educational materials serving smallholder farmers via SMS/IVR content engines, call center dashboards, rural radio station portals, Apps, textbooks, and educational games. He is working with the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Farm Radio International, and Farmer Voice Radio in several countries.

Perry, Meredith: Meredith Perry is the Program Manager at Scientists Without Borders. Meredith brings to Scientists Without Borders a background in convening international policy makers, scientists, and students to develop strategies in the areas of jurisprudence, public health, alternative energy, and the arts.

Pogor, Iulian: Iulian Pogor is part of the World Bank's Open Data Advisory Team, which works to develop and implement a Bank-wide approach to supporting open government data in Bank client countries and unlock the full value of the World Bank's data by removing barriers to its access and use. Iulian has worked on development and is continuously enhancing the Open Government Data Toolkit, a reference with an overview of the basic concepts behind open government data, and a framework that client countries can use to get started quickly.

Puri, Shaifali: Shaifali Puri is the Executive Director of Scientists Without Borders. As a Senior Advisor at the Empire State Development Corporation, Shaifali honed her talent for bringing together diverse stakeholders to uncover areas of mutual interest, and then to design and execute actionable projects, policies, and partnerships.

Rodriguez, Elena: Elena Rodriguez currently is studying for her master's degree in Global Policy Studies at the LBJ School of Public Affairs at the University of Texas at Austin. Elena is a research assistant at the Climate Change and African Political Stability (CCAPS) research program and a research fellow at Innovations for Peace and Development. Her research interests include international development, food security, foreign aid, and poverty.

Speaker Biographies

Alphabetically by Last Name

Roth, Alex: Alex Roth wants people to know that Amazon Web Services offers a complete set of infrastructure and application services that enable you to run virtually everything in the cloud: from enterprise applications and big data projects to social games and mobile apps. One of the key benefits of cloud computing is the opportunity to replace up-front capital infrastructure expenses with low variable costs that scale with your business.

Russo, Joseph: Joseph M. Russo is a Senior Scientist and President of ZedX, Inc., an information technology (IT) company specializing in decision-support algorithms and data visualization tools for the agricultural and environmental industries. He has been involved in the design and development of interactive, web-based, decision-support platforms and learning services, including the ipmPIPE for the USDA, iPiPE for industry, and AgFleet for the precision agriculture community.

Ryan, Barbara: Barbara J. Ryan is Secretariat Director of the intergovernmental Group on Earth Observations (GEO) located in Geneva, Switzerland. She leads the Secretariat in coordinating the activities of nearly 90 Member States and 50 Participating Organizations who are striving to integrate Earth observations so that informed decisions can be made across nine Societal Benefit Areas including agriculture, biodiversity, climate, water, and many more.

Schmidhuber, Josef: Josef Schmidhuber is the Deputy Director of the Statistics Division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). He is member of international initiatives, a lead author of the fourth assessment report of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) and member of the International Taskforce on Commodity Risk Management.

Shapiro, Howard-Yana: Howard-Yana Shapiro is the Chief Agricultural Officer at Mars, Incorporated. Currently, Shapiro is a senior fellow for the Plant Sciences Program at the University of California, Davis.

Simmons, Kay: Dr. Kay Walker Simmons is Deputy Administrator for Crop Production and Protection at the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Agricultural Research Service (ARS). Dr. Simmons leads ARS research programs, providing science-based information, genetic resources, and technologies for increased crop productivity, economically and environmentally sustainable methods of crop production, and protection from plant diseases and pests. This includes the USDA National Plant Genetic Resource System and associated genetic and genomic databases and bioinformatic tools.

Sinai, Nick: Nick Sinai is the Deputy Chief Technology Officer at the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy and the former Energy and Environment Director for the Federal Communications Commission.

Sonstegard, Tad: Dr. Tad Sonstegard is an Animal Geneticist at the USDA. His ARS team developed the first successful commercial application of genome selection in agriculture. Current efforts focus on food security, where the African Goat Improvement Network and ADAPTmap teams of scientists are developing breeding solutions for goats. The goal is to combine genome, phenome, and environmental data sets from cooperators across the globe to identify how indigenous goats can be rapidly and stably improved to provide better nutrition and economic security for small holders.

Stanzione, Dan: Dr. Dan Stanzione Jr. is the Deputy Director of the Texas Advanced Computing Center (TACC) at The University of Texas at Austin. He is the Co-Director of The iPlant Collaborative, an ambitious endeavor to build cyberinfrastructure to address the grand challenges of plant science. He is also a Co-investigator for TACC's 10 PetaFlop Stampede supercomputer, one of the fastest in the world.

Speaker Biographies Alphabetically by Last Name

Tambi, Emmanuel: Dr. Emmanuel Tambi is Director of Policy and Advocacy at the Forum for Agricultural Research in Africa (FARA) based in Accra, Ghana. He is responsible for developing strategic decision-making options for policy, institutions, and markets. He coordinates the African Agricultural and Food Policy Platform, and he also coordinates the research, extension and education components of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program.

Thomas, Caroline: Caroline Thomas is a sophomore at the University of Texas at Austin. She is a B.A. student in International Relations and Global Studies and is currently studying French as well as focusing in European Studies. Currently, Caroline is a part of the Food Security team at Innovations for Peace and Development at the University of Texas at Austin.

Thompson, Robert: Robert Thompson is the Professor emeritus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, most recently holding Gardner Endowed Chair in Agricultural Policy. He is also a senior fellow of global agricultural development and food security at The Chicago Council on Global Affairs. He previously served as director of rural development at the World Bank, president and CEO of Winrock International Institute for Agricultural Development, and dean of agriculture and professor of agricultural economics at Purdue University.

Varshney, Rajeev: Rajeev Varshney is a Director for the Center of Excellence in Genomics at ICRISAT, Hyderabad in India and Theme Leader for CGIAR Generation Challenge Programme based in Mexico. He worked at Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics and Crop Plant Research (IPK), Germany for five years. He possess more than 15 years of research experience in international agriculture and translational genomics.

Viatchaninova, Zhenia: Zhenia Viatchaninova is a consultant with the Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) Unit at the World Bank focusing on Open Government and Open Data projects in the ECA region. Zhenia's professional interests revolve around international aid diplomacy, governance transformation, social entrepreneurship, and global resource security (energy & water).

Vein, Chris: Chris Vein is the Chief Innovation Officer for Global Technology Development at the World Bank. In this capacity, Chris leads the implementation of the World Bank's Information and Communications Technology (ICT) Strategy, ICT policy and engagement dialogue with internal and external clients, and global ICT knowledge and expertise with client countries.

Wambua, Jimmy: Jimmy Wambua is the agricultural data analyst at M-Farm, a software solution and agribusiness company that provides rural farmers with real-time commodity price information through a SMS platform. He has a firm grasp of the Agricultural landscape in Kenya and believes smallholder farmers hold the keys to the prosperity of the nations. Using the "M-Farm App," useful content on Agriculture is passed on to farmers.

Wood, Stanley: Stanley Wood joined the Policy team within the Foundation's Agricultural Development Program in early 2013 and is responsible for developing an investment portfolio around improved data and analytics in support of strategic investment targeting, priority setting and technology evaluation. Prior to his move, Stanley was a Senior Research Fellow at the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) in Washington, D. . where he led IFPRI's research on spatial analysis in a policy and investment context.

Speaker Biographies

Alphabetically by Last Name

Yach, Derek: Derek Yach has focused his career on advancing global health. He is Senior Vice President (SVP) of the Vitality Group, part of Discovery Holdings Ltd, where he leads the Vitality Institute for Health Promotion. Prior to that, he was SVP Global Health and Agriculture Policy at PepsiCo where he supported portfolio transformation and led engagement with major international groups and new African initiatives at the nexus of agriculture and nutrition.

Zeigler, Margaret: Dr. Margaret Zeigler is the Executive Director of the Global Harvest Initiative (GHI). The Global Harvest Initiative is a private sector policy voice for agricultural productivity growth throughout the value chain to sustainably meet the demands of a growing world. To produce enough food to feed 9 billion people by 2050, GHI proposes key policies that enhance global food and nutrition security through increases in agricultural productivity while conserving natural resources.



Atop a mobile animal-surveillance laboratory, technicians record data on animal behavior. This laboratory on wheels is equipped with remote-controlled cameras and night-vision scopes so the animals can be observed 24 hours a day.

Thank You



I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the G-8 to thank the following individuals for all of their hard work and dedication to make the G-8 International Conference on Open Data for Agriculture, April 29-30, 2013, a success.

Sincerely,

Catherine E. Woteki

Catherine Woteki, Ph.D.
Under Secretary and Chief Scientist
U.S. Department of Agriculture

Adams, Jaime | USDA
Baquet, Zachary | USAID
Chen, Hillary | Office of Science and Technology Policy
Coursen, Wendy | USAID
Dowd, Katie | Office of Science and Technology Policy
Edmondson, Tiffany | USDA
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Lapeyrie, Frederic | France
Lopez, Oliva | State Department
Majma, Raphael | Office of Science and Technology Policy
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Tollervery, Alan | United Kingdom
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Maloney, Wayne | USDA
Manning, Nat | USAID
McGraw, Lauren | USDA
Miller, Mark | USDA
Nickerson, Cynthia | USDA
Okamuro, Jack | USDA
Prout, Jessica | United Kingdom
Rossier, Colleen | USDA
Simmons, Kay | USDA
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Townsend, Kat | USAID
Vein, Chris | World Bank

