

## GODAN Journey

After the 2013 open data conference the foundation to promote the open data for agriculture agenda was laid with the support of the G8 and the desire to realize the transformative nature open data. The principles found themselves usable in the data revolution agenda of the SDGs during the formulation of the SDGs. It is out of this that the evidence to drive the SDG 2 on Zero Hunger found a platform in the open data principles and the initiative to realize this the Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) was mooted. GODAN has therefore been a framework to address anchors on the collaborative efforts of governments, international organizations, research, academia, private sector and farmer organizations together with other stakeholders who recognized the transformative potential of open data as a tool for addressing global challenges in agriculture and nutrition. GODAN is therefore an initiative established to promote the use of open data in agriculture and nutrition, enhancing food security, and improving outcomes in these sectors. The chronology of events leading to the formulation of the initiative included the following:

1. **G8 International Conference on Open Data for Agriculture (April 2013):**
  - Hosted by the United States in Washington, D.C.
  - Focused on the potential of open data to improve agricultural productivity and food security.
  - Led to the development of the G8 Open Data for Agriculture Charter, which emphasized the importance of open data in agriculture and nutrition.
  
2. **Establishment of GODAN (October 2013):**
  - Following the G8 conference, GODAN was officially launched as a global initiative.
  - The initiative aimed to support global efforts to make agricultural and nutritional data available, accessible, and usable.
  
3. **Endorsement and Support (2013–2014):**
  - Initial endorsement and support came from various countries and organizations, including the G8 member states.
  - Key international bodies such as the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations and the World Bank expressed their support.
  
4. **First GODAN Summit (September 2016):**
  - Held in New York City, coinciding with the United Nations General Assembly.
  - Brought together stakeholders from around the world to discuss the progress and future directions of open data in agriculture and nutrition.
  - Marked a significant milestone in promoting the goals and objectives of GODAN.
  
5. **Advocacy on South–South Data Revolution (2017–2022):**
  - The GODAN New York Conference of 2016 was pivotal in advancing the open data agenda in agriculture and nutrition, leading to significant commitments, enhanced capacity building, strengthened partnerships, and providing a clear roadmap for future actions to leverage open data for sustainable development goals.
  - One of the 6016 actions was the plan to the GODAN/GoK Nairobi Conference, which happened June 2017, mooting the South–South Collaboration and promoting engagement of South–South Ministers on data revolution agenda
  - To implement the 2017 commitments of the Nairobi Declaration the GODAN Programme for Capacity Development was registered with offices at the Department of Food Science, Nutrition and Technology anchored on the GODAN Center for Agriculture and Nutrition, Data Analytics and Innovtions (CANDAI) for Policy Impact
  - CANDAI formulated the FoodFarmacy agenda promoting agroecology and Type II Diabetes remission integrating other NCDs through food and nutrition based interventions
  
6. **From Advocacy to Action – the GODAN 2.0 Agenda (2022–going forward):**
  - GODAN support by the G7 dried out forced closure of its Montreal operations and giving way to the GODAN/World Bank study on supporting governments through data use cases in line with the

GODAN/GoK work on Agricultural Transformation and the Agricultural Sector Transformation and Growth Strategy (Flagship #8)

- GODAN strengthened its agenda on Agroecology by supporting the formulation of the Murang'a County Assembly's backed Agroecology Act in 2022
- GODAN and Murang'a County government formulated the Agroecology Policy 2023 leading the way to the integration of the GODAN FoodFarmacies and Health, Experiential Education, Agriculture and Nutrition for Data Sourcing (HEEANDS) into the policy discourse
- Formulation and launch of the Data Think Tank Initiative with its Fourteen (14) thematic working groups
- Kickoff of CANDAI Centers in other Universities including the collaboration with Strathmore University's Agri-and Innovation Center (SAFI-C) on the use of the DTTI Thematic Working groups into a Strathmore based and driven Communities of Practice supported by GODAN's grassroots actions across Africa

The creation of the Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (ODAN) initiative continues to be driven by several factors that reflect the broader need for improved data access and use in the agricultural and nutritional sectors, now morphing into data use cases within the emerging framework of the iFoodSOS. Here are the key reasons and motivations the GODAN iFoodSOS Data Use Cases and Communities of Practice:

1. **Global Food Security Challenges:** with increasing global population, climate change, and other environmental pressures there are heightened concerns about food security. There continues to be need for better data to make informed decisions to ensure a sustainable and secure food supply.
2. **Innovation and Efficiency:** Access to open data can drive innovation and efficiency in agriculture. Farmers, farmer organizations, researchers, and policymakers can use this data to develop new technologies, improve crop yields, optimize resource use, and reduce waste.
3. **Transparency and Accountability:** With open data transparency and accountability in agricultural and nutritional policies and practices are easily promoted. By making data publicly available, stakeholders can track progress, identify gaps, and hold institutions accountable for their actions and decisions.
4. **Global Collaboration:** We seek to address agricultural and nutritional challenges which often require global partnerships. Open data anchored on an online platform with a data sourcing dashboard and use cases facilitates the sharing of knowledge and best practices across borders, helping countries to learn from each other and coordinate efforts more effectively.
5. **Technological Advances:** With advances in data collection, storage, and sharing technologies; it is feasible to collect and disseminate large amounts of data. The rise of the internet and digital platforms such as iFoodSOS provides the infrastructure needed to support open data initiatives.
6. **Policy Support:** Governments and international organizations have recognized the importance of open data and continue to implement policies that support its use in agriculture and nutrition. Initiatives such as the G8 Open Data Charter, and the Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) have provided frameworks and support for these efforts.
7. **Data-driven Decision Making:** A growing recognition that data-driven decision making significantly improves outcomes in agriculture and nutrition has been embraced by Governments and learning organizations. Reliable data helps stakeholders make better choices regarding inputs required in farms, seed suitability, crop management, food distribution, nutrition programs, and value chain integration to consumers.
8. **Addressing Inequality:** Open data initiatives aim to level the playing field by providing equal access to information and promoting platforms for learning on data use. This can help smallholder farmers and underserved communities gain access to valuable insights that were previously only available to larger organizations with more resources.

The GODAN agenda has been responsible for delivering better access to high-quality, reliable data in agriculture and nutrition to address global challenges, promote innovation, and ensure sustainable development. GODAN's South-South Program for Capacity Development has been in the lead to support the realization of the learning

dimension of open data using the Centers of Agriculture and Nutrition, Data Analytics and Innovation (CANDA) for Policy Impact.