
Ministers Responsible for Agriculture attending The AGDIC Ministerial Conference Held at the Accra International Conference Center, Ghana on 22-24 October 2019

THE DECLARATION:

We, the Ministers for Agriculture and high level representatives of Governments, having met in Accra, Ghana, from 22 to 24 October 2019, with the full participation of private sector, academia and civil society, renew our commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in pursuit of Ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture:

1. Noting with appreciation, the support of the Government of Ghana and the contribution of the Africa Open Data and Internet Research Foundation in hosting a Ministerial Conference on Agriculture and Nutrition Data under the theme: Shaping Africa's Digital Future and for providing all the necessary support;
2. Recognizing the efforts of the government of Kenya towards establishing a voluntary intergovernmental network on open data for agriculture, food security and nutrition, under the auspices of GODAN;
3. Recalling the report of the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda, calling for a data revolution for sustainable development, with a new international initiative to improve the quality of statistics and make information available to citizens;
4. Recognizing that poverty eradication, changing unsustainable and promoting sustainable patterns of consumption, production, and protecting and managing the natural resource base of economic and social development are the overarching objectives and essential requirements for sustainable development;
5. Acknowledging that creating an adequate and sustainable supply of safe and nutritious foods in this 21st century requires data-driven innovation at the convergence of economic, human and planetary health, as well as transforming the current practices of a broad spectrum of stakeholders, including consumers, in the production, delivery, consumption and waste management of food;
6. Taking note of the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) that has inspired and energized African Governments, African agricultural research institutions, farmers' associations and the private sector to increase investment, improve coordination and share knowledge on Agricultural Transformation;
7. Acknowledging that knowledge and information have become transformative dimensions of our existence and are key drivers behind the achievement of all the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs);
8. Taking note of the Global Open Data for Agriculture & Nutrition (GODAN) as a network that supports public and private global efforts to make agriculture and nutrition data more available and easier to access by all;
9. Bearing in mind that open data policies in both public and private sectors should respect and balance openness with legitimate concerns in relation to privacy, security, community rights and commercial interest;

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10. Acknowledging that open data can be a driver for innovation and agricultural transformation for smallholder farmers, giving the insights and services they need to improve productivity and build resilience;
 11. Convinced that women and youth constitute the majority of developing world's population and therefore require motivation and support for agri-business enterprises through resource mobilization, data, research and innovation;
 12. Aware that women and youth are at the center of sustainable development and, in this regard, strive for an equitable and inclusive agriculture;
 13. Fully convinced that making data and statistics on agriculture, food markets and nutrition available, accessible and useful to smallholder farmers and intermediaries is essential to development of inclusive value chains, building resilience in farming communities and strengthening food and nutrition security;
 14. Recognizing that data fuels innovation and creates opportunities for people to influence their lives and future, participate in responsive decision-making and amplify their concerns and actions more than before;
 15. Emphasizing that sustainable food systems can only be achieved with a broad alliance of people, governments, civil society and the private sector, working together for a world secure a world that is food secure and sustainable, without hunger and malnutrition.
 16. Reaffirming the need to be guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics;
 17. Reaffirming our commitment to strengthen international cooperation to address the persistent challenges related to sustainable food systems;

The Ministerial Conference therefore resolves to take the following urgent actions to achieve sustainable agriculture, reduce food insecurity and nutritional challenges:

1. **Renew** our commitments to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals by endeavouring to make more data available and open as a means of assessing the progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda;
2. **Agree** to work together with organizations serving women and youth to promote sustained, secure and inclusive agriculture that focuses on creating decent jobs and economic growth;
3. **Reiterate** the need to strengthen South-South Cooperation and triangular collaboration as means for building capacity, technology transfer and knowledge sharing, to enable us collectively address the challenges of data-gaps in agriculture, food security and nutrition;
4. **Commit** to harnessing power of new innovations, technologies and techniques, especially the data revolution to solve the challenge of extreme poverty and hunger of all underserved communities;
5. **Urge** countries to adopt the use and release of data for decision-making and action at all levels, so as to increase agricultural productivity and large-scale access to safe and nutritious foods, and to achieve sustainable development and environmental protection in all its dimensions;

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6. **Commit** to investing in the proactive use of data in support of the CAADP Review Process and Leaders Scorecard, in the context of commitments made by Governments under the auspices of the African Union;
 7. **Strengthen** the acquisition and application of science, technology and innovation inherent in Food Convergent Innovation approaches;
 8. **Improve** the uptake of data-driven youth innovation and promoting entrepreneurship;
 9. **Support** partnerships that leverage on youth innovation that enables agricultural producers to access skills, new markets, financing, and attracting youth into agri-business;
 10. **Increase** financial allocations and human capacity towards strengthening statistical departments within the Ministries of Agriculture to promote the production of data, making it open, more usable, timely and comprehensive, comparable and interoperable;
 11. **Support** a coordination mechanism to be hosted by member countries on rotational basis.
 12. **Request** the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the Alliance for a Green Revolution (AGRA), the African Development Bank (AfDB) and other partners to support Governments in strengthening their internal systems to produce timely, accurate and reliable data for food systems;
 13. **Request** the Secretariat of the Global Open Data initiative on Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) to continue its support in the aspects of and not limited to:
 - a. Ensuring that countries are supported to benefit from the network and those that are not yet members, encouraged to join;
 - b. Avail network capacity and capabilities on agriculture data that is responsive to the contexts and challenges of the developing world;
 - c. Equip countries with insights and guidance to allow them to release and reuse data in support of innovation and economic growth, improved service delivery and effective governance, and improved environmental and social outcomes;
 - d. Provide support for countries to sustain national level platforms for agriculture open data;
 14. **Invite** all participants to this conference to note these commitments and make them available to all.