

# Candidate Brief

Director of the GODAN Secretariat

March 2015

## ABOUT GODAN

The Global Open Data in Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) initiative emerged from a series of G8 meetings in 2012 and 2013 and formally launched at the Open Government Partnership Summit in London in October 2013. At the G20 meeting in Brisbane, Australia, June 2014, the final communiqué from the meeting encouraged G20 members to "consider the opportunities associated with open data networks such as GODAN."

The GODAN initiative aims to bring together agricultural, nutritional and open data fields and actors in order that:

- the use of open data is stimulated and implemented on farmer level and within policy making;
- the successes in GODAN are understood & replicated in other sectors and in other open data work;
- GODAN can learn from the successes elsewhere;
- GODAN benefits from some of the innovative work practices emerging in the Open Data field, and vice versa.

To support GODAN as a network, a Secretariat has been established, hosted by CABI that will enhance community ownership. The added value of a Secretariat function has been tested through engagement with a wide range of GODAN partners to help develop a clear understanding of the market in order to improve decisions on the design and delivery of the Secretariat.

For further information about GODAN, please see [www.godan.info](http://www.godan.info).

## GODAN SECRETARIAT

The Secretariat will be constituted so as to best facilitate participation of partners, whether they be large or small organisations. Working groups and other possible advisory structures will be set up to draw upon the broadest possible range of interest groups, whether that is geographical, type of partner (NGO vs public vs private sector) and across a broad range of skillsets.

There exists a huge variety of interests and potential contributions amongst the GODAN partners. The Secretariat will retain an umbrella supporting function, but will also identify working groups to allow development of focal points on areas of interest only to some partners (e.g. agriculture/nutrition data standards, data visualisation etc.).

The added value of the Secretariat will be to allow a dedicated focal point and staffing to enhance coordination amongst partners, scale up current advocacy and profiling activities and improve lesson-learning and knowledge exchange.

The Director of the Secretariat is a strategic role and will lead a small team.

## ABOUT CABI

**CABI ([www.cabi.org](http://www.cabi.org)) is a not-for-profit development-led organization supported by a solid scientific research base and a world class publishing service. Our mission is to improve people's lives worldwide by providing information and applying scientific expertise to solve problems in agriculture and the environment. Our work increases food security and protects biodiversity.**

We have nearly 500 staff based in 16 countries. We have offices in Brazil, China, Ghana, India, Kenya, Malaysia, Pakistan, Switzerland, Trinidad & Tobago, the UK and the USA.

CABI is an intergovernmental organization that can trace its origins back to 1910. Our mission and direction are influenced by government representatives from our 48 member countries who help guide the activities we undertake. These include scientific publishing, development projects and research, and microbial services. We are also leading a major new initiative, Plantwise, which aims to improve food security and the lives of the rural poor by reducing crop losses.

### Publishing

We produce key scientific publications, including CAB Abstracts – the world-leading database covering agriculture and environment and Global Health - the definitive bibliographic database for public health information. We also publish multimedia compendia, books, eBooks and full text electronic resources aiming to further science and its application to real life. Behind each of our products is a team of subject specialists committed to delivering the most relevant and authoritative information to researchers worldwide.

### Development projects and research

Our staff research and find solutions to agricultural and environmental problems. We use science, information and communication tools to help solve issues of global concern. Our work is arranged around four core themes:

- **Commodities** – we work to enable smallholder commodity farmers to compete in global markets. We diagnose and control plant pests and diseases, and help farmers get a better price for their crops. We work on crops such as coffee, cocoa, wheat, rice and cotton.
- **Invasive species** – we are helping to reduce the spread and impact of invasive weeds such as Japanese Knotweed, water hyacinth and insects such as coffee berry borer and cocoa pod borer. We also advise countries at a policy level about agriculture, trade and the environment.
- **Knowledge for development** – we work with farmers, extension workers, researchers and governments to deliver agricultural knowledge and develop communication strategies and systems.
- **Knowledge management** - we use information and communication technologies to provide farmers, researchers and policy makers with the information they need to make informed decisions and to lift people out of poverty.

### Microbial services

We manage one of the world's largest genetic resource collections, the UK's National Collection of Fungus Cultures. We conduct microbiological identifications, provide cultures for sale, and offer preservation and consultancy services. We are also screening our collection, looking for natural products such as antibiotics, vitamins and enzymes.

### Plantwise

Plantwise is a global programme, led by CABI, to increase food security and improve rural livelihoods by reducing crop losses. Sustainable networks of local plant clinics provide farmers with practical plant health advice, reinforced by the Plantwise Knowledge Bank, an online gateway to plant health information. Working in close partnership with relevant actors, Plantwise strengthens national plant health systems from within, enabling countries to provide farmers with the knowledge they need to lose less and feed more. [www.plantwise.org](http://www.plantwise.org)

## THE ROLE

<b>Job title:</b>	Director of the GODAN Secretariat
<b>HAY Grade:</b>	Senior Management (SMG)
<b>Reporting to:</b>	Andrea Powell, Chief Information Officer
<b>Salary:</b>	Commensurate with skills and ability we offer a competitive package in the not-for-profit development sector
<b>Term:</b>	The role is offered as an initial appointment of up to five years subject to renewal and extension.
<b>Working pattern:</b>	The post may be filled on a full-time or a part-time basis
<b>Staff reporting:</b>	4
<b>Key peer group:</b>	Knowledge Business, International Development (ID), and Commercial senior management.
<b>Location:</b>	The Secretariat will be based in the UK and the appointed candidate may be based in Wallingford in the UK, or Leusden in The Netherlands. The role will require some travel.

### Purpose of the role

The Secretariat needs a strong and visible leader and focal point that will provide leadership and direction.

### Key Accountabilities

- Provide strategic direction to the GODAN Secretariat and lead the development and implementation of a strategy and action plan to enable it to achieve its objectives.
- Represent the Secretariat on the GODAN Steering Committee.
- Bring together agricultural, nutritional and open data fields and actors to stimulate and implement the use of open data at farmer level and within policy making;
- Advocate for GODAN at a highest political level on the importance of open data across agricultural/nutritional datasets to support activities of key national and international stakeholders.
- Harmonise activities with others, share knowledge and lessons and identify evidence of impact of engagement in agricultural/nutritional open data activities.
- Manage a framework of national and international events and dialogues to stimulate end-user engagement with open data and to build the GODAN community of practice.
- Represent GODAN Secretariat at international events, and interact with senior policy makers, agriculture and nutrition, and open data experts and specialists in the public and private sector and in developed and developing countries.

## PERSON SPECIFICATION

The Director of the GODAN Secretariat will have extensive experience in advocacy at the highest political levels, a good understanding of agriculture and food security, combined with a strategic view of open data and the role of ICT in agriculture and nutrition, and strong communication skills. The selected candidate will be required to develop and communicate clear key messages on the impact and value of open data and GODAN, represent GODAN at high level international fora and ensure delivery of the secretariat's workplans. The Director will engage with existing GODAN Partners, and recruit new Partners.

### Qualifications and language skills

- An advanced university degree in agriculture, nutrition, information science or another relevant discipline.
- Fluency in English essential, both written and spoken.

### Previous experience

- Minimum of 15 years of experience in information/knowledge management in agriculture and nutrition, or related discipline (e.g., environment, climate science). Proven experience in using ICTs as tools in informing decision making in agriculture and nutrition would be an advantage.
- Ten years' experience operating at international level.
- Knowledge of current national and international policies and frameworks in open data and agriculture and nutrition.

### Key competencies

- Clear vision and ability to think strategically and to serve and advise the Secretariat, Steering Committee and Partners
- Strong leadership skills and proven ability to motivate a high-performance multicultural team
- Strong analytical skills and proven ability to manage strategic change
- Proven capacity to produce high quality results on a timely basis according to budget
- Ability to communicate key messages of complex policy issues to a range of stakeholders.

## SECONDMENT

This role may be filled on secondment. To discuss a secondment opportunity, please contact Neil MacIntosh, HR Director, at [n.macintosh@cabi.org](mailto:n.macintosh@cabi.org).

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

CABI is an equal opportunities employer and welcomes applications from candidates irrespective of age, gender, race, colour, nationality, ethnic or national origin, disability, religion, sexual orientation or marital status. No applicant will be disadvantaged by conditions which cannot be shown to be justified and selection will be based on merit.



By completing the **CABI Equal Opportunities Survey** you will be helping us to follow best practice recommendations that employers should monitor selection decisions to assess whether equality of opportunity is being achieved. Please follow the link to take the survey.

## HOW TO APPLY

To apply please send the following to [recruitment@cabi.org](mailto:recruitment@cabi.org) quoting **Job Reference 24/2015** and stating where you saw this post advertised:

1. a covering letter describing in full how you meet the candidate profile, and to include details of your current remuneration;
2. a full Curriculum Vitae;
3. the names and contact details of three referees, one of whom must be your current or most recent employer – referees **will not** be contacted without your prior permission

**Please note the closing date for the receipt of applications is midnight BST on 30 March 2015.**