

## G-8 Open Data Meeting - September 24, 2012 Summary of Conclusions

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### **Meeting Attendees:**

**Dr. Cathie Woteki**, Chief Scientist and Under Secretary for Research, Education and Economics, USDA

**Dr. Simon Liu**, Director, National Agricultural Library, USDA

**Ms. Jaime Adams**, Senior Advisor, Foreign Agricultural Service, USDA

**Mr. Franz Hochstrasser**, Confidential Assistant, Research, Education and Economics, USDA

**Professor Tim Benton**, UK Champion for Global Food Security, United Kingdom

**Mr. Nikiforos Sivenas**, Principal Adviser, DG of Agriculture and Rural Development, European Commission

**Dr. Masaru Iwanaga**, Japanese International Research Center for Agriculture Scientists, Japan (as observer)

**Mr. Bob Turnock**, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

**Dr. Richard (Rick) Butts**, Agriculture and Agri-Food Canada

**Dr. Chistian Grugel**, Ministry of Food, Agriculture and Consumer Protection, Germany

**Mr. Stefan Lange**, Thünen Institute – Federal Research Institute for Rural Areas, Forestry and Fisheries, Germany

**Mr. Martin Nissen**, German Embassy in Mexico D.F., Germany

*Unable to attend: Italy, France and Russia*

### **Background:**

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

### **Statement of Conclusions:**

On September 24, 2012, representatives from the G-8 countries met on the margins of the first G-20 Meeting of Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) in Guadalajara, Mexico to discuss how to move forward on the International Open Data Conference for Agriculture commitment. There was consensus that:

- G-8 Agricultural Chief Scientists (MACS) should convene an international conference on open data for agriculture in 2013. The G-8 agricultural chief scientists should organize a planning committee to plan the conference and establish the conference agenda, programs, and goals. Due to several scheduled meetings for the remaining time in 2012, coupled with upcoming holidays, there would not be enough time to adequately plan and convene the conference in 2012. The planning committee should convene a meeting in December 2012. The United States agreed to coordinate and convene the planning meeting.
- The G-8 chief scientists should explore options for establishing a pilot to make genetic and genomics data openly available. The pilot should integrate genetics and genomics data with geo-spatial, agro-ecological, weather, and other relevant data to make practical and useful information available to African farmers, researchers, and policymakers. Innovations in the pilot can lead to solutions to address long term partnerships for food security, driven in large part by the availability of massive amounts of genetic, genomic and environmental data. While this creates unparalleled opportunities, it also presents major challenges for the pilot project in areas of data management, integration, analysis, and discovery.
- The pilot should adopt and encourage the development of a common vocabulary and open standards to facilitate data integration, create an open platform to enable collaborative development of software tools for data analysis, visualization, predictive modeling, and discovery.
- This high level summary was prepared Monday, September 24, 2012 and distributed to attendees for review/approval.