AODIRF-GODAN DIGITAL FORUM

THEME: AFRICA DIGITILISATION TRADE IN AGRICULTURE AND NUTRITION

7 October 2020 at 1pm UTC +00, Webinar

CONCEPT NOTE

Background
The Africa We Want envisions Africa as a continent on equal footing with the rest of the world, as an information society, an integrated e-economy where every government, business, and citizen has access to reliable and affordable digital services by increasing broad penetration and providing venture capital to young entrepreneurs and innovators.

Digitization offers new opportunities to boost the economy (through e-commerce), cut red tape and reduce trade costs (through e-government and the digitalization of public services), leapfrog, and participate in the 4th industrialization revolution. This potential is even greater for Landlocked Developing Countries (LDCs). Despite these opportunities, there are several limitations that African countries continue to face; some of which relate to the current infrastructure, digital and technological gap. For example, ITU Facts and Figures 2017 show that only 21.8% of Africans have access to the internet. In this context, one key question is what does digitized trade mean for the Agriculture sector in Africa?

Objective
The main objective of this concept is aligning the African Free Continental Trade agenda with linkages in the Digitization and Agriculture value chain in Africa.

We want to galvanize open data principles to build on convergent technology that will enable digitalization to contribute its quota African Agriculture.

In order to achieve its overall objective of regional integration and ultimately Agriculture digital transformation in the context of AU Agenda 2063, the specific objectives of this webinar are:

▪ To develop a guidance policy for a Digital Africa Agriculture Trade policy guide
▪ To advance open data principles across Africa Nutrition and Agriculture Value Chain

Concept
Successful technology adoption for societal benefits calls for the inclusiveness of diverse stakeholders. Open Data and convergent agriculture technologies are critical to driving economic growth. We need to speak the language decision-makers understand. Digital trade of African agriculture products from the seeds to the plate offers wide variety of opportunities
critical for the success of cities and nations. Not only will we be able to control both plant and human disease through biological science but will also be providing nutrition that enables healthy lives and healthy people while maintaining environmental integrity for generations yet unborn.

More specifically, the webinar will cover some of the following topics:

- What does digitalization mean for ordinary African Agriculture Farmers, small traders and those involved in the informal agricultural trade?
- Under what parameters can digitalization contribute to help Africa agricultural sectors in achieving the objectives of the AfCFTA and ultimately its structural transformation as envisaged under Agenda 2063?
- Is there any possibility of considering a digital single agricultural market for Africa?
- What are some of the ongoing policy initiatives that have the potential to enhance Africa’s digital structural transformation within the agriculture of the entire AfCFTA program? Digital ID, Digital payment systems, Digitalization and trade costs, African E-commerce Platforms.
- What elements should be considered in the future: capacity building and skills upgrading for all stakeholders; role of the private sector through Public Private Partnership? What can be done at the international level to support Africa’s current efforts and initiatives?

Policy Alignment

The AU Agenda 2063 Digital Trade and Digital Economy Development Strategy that seeks to enable African countries to fully benefit from the 4th industrial revolution.

Expected outputs

- Policy development of convergent Open Data, Digital Trade, and Agriculture Digital Economy Development in Africa
- Identification of key elements and issues for further consideration in the AfCFTA implementation.
- Enhanced understanding and awareness of open data principles
- Local Content: Localization of content on African platforms will be clearly define
- Enhanced understanding and awareness on how digitalization can help achieve the objective of the AfCFTA and Agenda 2063.

Targeted participants

Participants to the webinar will be from the representatives from the African Governments and Private Sector, Civil Society Organizations, Agribusiness Association, Trade Association, Non-governmental Organizations, Ambassadors, think-tanks, Academia.
**Venue, dates and language**
The webinar will be virtual (zoom) and will take place on Wednesday 7 October 2020 at 1pm UTC +00. The panel discussion will be conducted in English.

**Registration links**
All speakers and participants to the webinar should register with the following websites:  
www.aodirf.org / www.godan.info

**Information**
All information relating to this webinar should be communicated to Mr. Kwaku Antwi (E-mail: okantwi@gmail.com) or Mr. Wisdom Donkor (E-mail: wisdom.dk@gmail.com)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DRAFT AGENDA</th>
<th>DRAFT AGENDA</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>12:50 – 12:59 +00</strong></td>
<td>Zoom login / Networking</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| **01:00 – 01:25 +00** | **EMCEE**: Angela Akua Asante, Triple A Production  
**Welcome Remarks (3min)**: Wisdom Donkor, President, Africa Open Data and Internet Research Foundation  
**Keynote (10mins)**: Stephanie S. Sullivan, US Ambassador to Ghana (yet to confirm)  
**Keynote (10min)**: Abebe Haile-Gabriel, UN FAO Representative for Africa (yet to confirm) |
| **01:25 – 1:40 +00** | **Presentation (15)**: Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN)  
**Rapporteur**: Africa Rapporteur network |
| **1:40 -1:45 +00** | **EMMCEE Acknowledgement** |
| **1:45 – 2:35 +00** | **High Level Panel Discussion (50min)**: Africa Digitalization Trade in Agriculture.  
**Moderator**: Kwaku Antwi, Africa Open Data and Internet Research Foundation  
**Speakers**:  
1. H.E. Wamkele Keabetswe Mene, Secretary General Official, The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) (yet to confirm)  
2. Prof. Laurette Dube, McGill University, Canada  
3. Andre Laperriere, Executive Director, Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN)  
4. Chief Director, Ministry of Food and Agriculture (MOFA), Ghana  
5. Moctar Yedaly, Head of Information Society, Africa Union (AU) |
| **02:35 – 2:45 +00** | **Discussants (15min)**:  
We do have some discussants in the room and they will share their own perspective, based on their experiences and the lessons they’ve learnt developing and implementing various policies and initiatives with regards to the topics been discussed.  
1. Lucy Akua Kyerede Quainoo, Agribusiness Value Chain Federation, Ghana  
2. Paul Bartel, Data Scientist / Lead, SERVIR West Africa  
3. Agata Pawlowska, Operations Manager, World Bank, Ghana Office (yet to confirm)  
**Rapporteur**: Africa Rapporteur network |
| **2:45 +00** | **Closing remarks**: Andre Laperriere, Executive Director, Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) |