



THE NEED FOR NUTRITION EDUCATION/INNOVATION PROGRAMME

Harrison Carter, Shivani Bhat, Prof Sumantra Ray on Behalf of the NNEdPro Group

The GODAN-UN Summit 2016: Can open data ensure better nutrition and global food security?

The challenge to ensure global food security is urgent. The Global Open Data for Agriculture and Nutrition (GODAN) Summit that took place in September 2016, was tasked to define high level solutions to this problem in partnership with the United Nations in New York City. GODAN is a rapidly growing international network of over 350 partners from national governments, non-governmental, international and private sector organisations that have committed to a joint Statement of Purpose – to make agriculture and nutrition data globally available and unrestricted.

Why is this important?

Let us first consider the problem. Nearly 800 million people struggle with debilitating hunger and malnutrition in every corner of the globe. Starvation is a reality for many people around the world – yet there is a surplus of food being produced. Though this seems counterintuitive, these are astonishing facts which require timely consideration to ensure better access to healthy food, for all.

GODAN’s approach to Zero Hunger lies within existing but often inaccessible agriculture and nutrition data. That is why world leaders, researchers, farmers, students and health professionals gathered in New York City to collaborate with a key objective; **to find solutions to make agriculture and nutrition data globally accessible and usable.** As GODAN’s new knowledge partner, NNEdPro brought a unique perspective to the agriculture and nutrition open data debate.

What’s the solution?

We propose three potential solutions to work towards our mission of ensuring global food security and accessible nutrition data.

Translation of agricultural and nutrition data

NNEdPro is a network that focuses on nutrition knowledge transfer and evaluation to improve human health through real-world application. At the Summit, we constructively challenged the established agriculture and nutrition dogma. **The principle underpinning this is very simple.** Open data can lead to improved food security and better human health only if it can be accessed and understood in a manner that bridges the gap between agriculture and human nutrition.

Multi-professional collaboration between different agencies

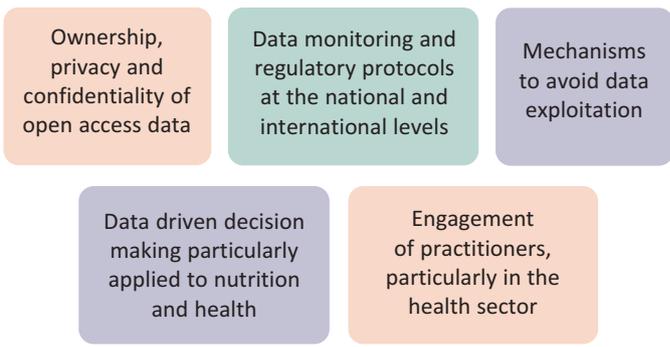
In a keynote address, the NNEdPro Chair reported that a multi-professional approach was the best way of guaranteeing success as opposed to agencies working in silos with inconsistent lines of communication. To ensure that agriculture and nutrition data applied to human health practice, a number of professional groups had to be given agency to participate. This would ultimately include research institutions, government officials, private companies and healthcare professionals.

Work with what we have first

As governmental institutions and private companies were discussing the best way to categorise and legally account for all the data collected, NNEdPro stressed the importance of first analysing the data we already have. We believe that by making that data accessible in an understandable fashion will provide a clearer picture of the ‘gap areas’ in nutrition health.

More questions...

While the Summit achieved its mandate in bringing together individuals and organisations from a wide array of stakeholders to discuss open data, it introduced more topics for discussion:



Though challenging, through collaborative and well-coordinated inter-sectorial efforts and by establishing attainable goals, we can achieve this goal. With the ambitious support provided by international stakeholders, we are possibly not far away from better nutrition and global food security. It is therefore the best moment for the nutrition and health sector to join hands in embracing this wave of the future.



Keep in touch with NNEdPro: Facebook: NNEdPro
 Twitter: @NNEdPro Email: info@nnedpro.org.uk
 Website: www.nnedpro.org.uk