



International Symposium on Farmers' Access to Data

24th November 2017
Centurion, South Africa

Program

9:30 – 10:00	Arrival and registration
10:00 – 10:15	Welcome and introduction
10:15 – 11:45	Panel 1 "Data and Farmers" 10:15 – 10:45: Keynote speech – Ajit Maru 10:45 – 10:55: Presentation – Kakha Nadiradze 10:55 – 11:05: Presentation - Johannes Abbott 11:05 – 11:35: Panel discussion 11:35 – 11:45: Q&A
11:45 – 12:00	Break
12:00 – 13:30	Panel 2 "Digital Agriculture - Challenges and Opportunities" 12:00 – 12:30: Keynote speech – Dan Berne 12:30 – 12:40: Presentation - Nico Kroese 12:40 – 12:50: Presentation: Stephen Kalyesubula 12:50 – 13:20: Panel discussion 13:20 – 13:30: Q&A
13:30 – 14:30	Lunch
14:30 – 16:00	Panel 3 "Fair and equitable open data" 14:30 – 15:00: Keynote speech – Jeremy De Beer 15:00 – 15:10: Presentation – Juanita Chaves 15:10 – 15:20: Presentation – Moses Odeke 15:20 – 15:50: Panel discussion 15:50 – 16:00: Q&A
16:00 – 16:15	Closing



Description of panels

Panel 1 - Ajit Maru - "Data and Farmers"

Ajit Maru, Ph.D., grew up in Kenya, studied veterinary sciences in India and has served the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, National Dairy Development Board of India, International Service for National Agricultural Research, Dhirubhai Ambani Institute of Information and Communication Technology and the Global Forum on Agricultural Research/FAO in his professional career spanning almost 40 years. He now follows his lifelong interest in understanding and improving the livelihoods of small holder farmers. At the moment he is working on developing a single window platform to support small holder farmers of Gujarat, India, in their farming and participation in markets.

Abstract

I explore (why, what, where, how) the paradigm shift is occurring in agriculture making it data driven, information rich and knowledge intensive. I then distinguish between use of data from the farm (precision farming) and data outside the farm (Digital agriculture, Agriculture 4.0) and the implications of its sharing and exchange from the point of the view of the smallholder farmer, as farmers are not a homogenous entity. I will look at the emergence of open and closed information chains as it is occurring in supermarket and fast food restaurant chains and in alternative agriculture of small farmers linked to farmers markets. I list out which data is used how by a farmer in farming operations and then show its use and abuse when data is shared by an individual farmer and when aggregated. I also describe farmers, actors and stakeholders of agricultural data and information chains. Finally I describe and indicate what in my opinion now needs to be done starting from International treaties and conventions to national and local policies, rules, regulations, norms, codes etc., and structures.

Panelists

1. **Kakha Nadiradze** from the Association for Farmers Rights Defense (AFRD) of Georgia will present on interfaces between farmers' rights and access to big data for better farming
2. **Johannes Abbott** from Farmboek will present the Farmboek information service for farmers
3. Alpha Mtakwa
4. Charles Mbutia

Panel 2 – Dan Berne - "Digital Agriculture - Challenges and Opportunities"

Dan Berne is an independent consultant working at the nexus of water, food and energy. He leads the strategic planning work in the industrial agricultural irrigation market for the Northwest Energy Efficiency Alliance (NEEA), a non-profit organization focused on energy efficiency. Working with the non-profit group AgGateway, Dan leads the effort to develop a set of data standards and formats to convert data for use in precision irrigation and other water management programs. He is an expert in standards development, business processes, market development and customer experience strategies.



Abstract

I will focus on the issues of grower adoption of using data-driven practices. What are the obstacles? What can the industry and other organizations do to increase adoption? Using Geoffrey Moore's Technology Adoption Lifecycle, I will define the requirements for data-driven solutions to "cross the chasm." I will examine the role of data standards and address how to deal with data that are used in different geo-political contexts. I will propose a set of activities and guidelines that will help accelerate the adoption of data-driven agricultural solutions.

Panelists

1. **Nico Kroese** from the SAWS will present the Rain 4 Africa project. SAWS is a partner of ARC and eight Dutch based partners in this project.
2. **Stephen Kalyesubula** from iLabs@Mak Project of Makerere University will present on key data for farm management
3. Thomas Kwaku Dzandu
4. Nike Tinubu

Panel 3 – Jeremy De Beer – “Fair and equitable open data”

Jeremy De Beer is a Full Professor of law at the University of Ottawa's Faculty of Law, where he creates and shapes ideas—about technology innovation, intellectual property, and global trade and development. As an award-winning professor recognized for exceptional contributions to research and law teaching, his current work helps solve practical challenges related to innovation in the digital economy, life science industries, and clean technology sector.

He is a co-founder and director of Open AIR, the Open African Innovation Research network, which connects dozens of multi-disciplinary researchers across African countries, Canada and elsewhere to scale up innovation by easing tensions between intellectual property and access to knowledge.

Abstract

I will explain in this talk how to create a fair and equitable system of benefit sharing around open data. We must acknowledge the access barriers that data ownership may raise, then develop strategies to strengthen a data commons that engages all stakeholders.

Agricultural data is a vital resource in the effort to address food insecurity. This data is used across the food-production chain. For example, farmers rely on agricultural data to decide when to plant crops, scientists use data to conduct research on pests and design disease resistant plants, and governments make policy based on land use data. Open agricultural data has the potential to address food insecurity by making it easier for farmers and other stakeholders to access and use the data they need.

Panelists

1. **Juanita Chaves** from GFAR will present on issues of farmers' rights
2. **Moses Odeke** from ASARECA will present on the role of mobile phones and private/public infrastructures in enhancing access to data
3. Tereza Chelule
4. Koketso Ramoonwa



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