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GEOGLAM: Open Science in Support Food Security

Abstract

The Group on Earth Observations Global Agricultural Monitoring Initiative (GEOGLAM) was initially launched by the Group of Twenty (G20) Agriculture Ministers June 2011 during the French G20 Presidency. The goal of GEOGLAM is to increase market transparency and improve food security by producing and disseminating relevant, timely, and actionable information on agricultural conditions and outlooks on production at national, regional, and global scales. While GEOGLAM community includes more than 100 institutions from 50+ countries and international organizations, its information reach is global.

GEOGLAM addresses its mandate by strengthening the international community's capacity to utilize coordinated, comprehensive, and sustained Earth observations. Essentially GEOGLAM has delivered by bringing science based information together with expert knowledge to derive consensus information. The information is provided to decision makers who use it to develop better policies and programs in support of food security. All this work is underpinned by a solid research foundation focussed on operational outcomes, including the Joint Experiments on Crop Assessment and Monitoring.

In the 10 years since GEOGLAM was initiated the priorities of the national and international organizations we serve have evolved, particularly with respect to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Paris Climate agreement, and the Sendai Framework. At the same time the technological landscape has shifted with access to open data Earth observation data and big data analytics, including cloud computing. So as GEOGLAM looks to the future too are evolving our initiative to capitalize on advances to address these great challenges.

The presentation will give an overview of GEOGLAM operations, research, and impact. It will also discuss new activities that are preparing our global community for the future, and suggest ways that the audience can get involved and join the GEOGLAM community. These new activities include the development of Essential Agriculture Variables, enhanced in situ data coordination, capacity/co-development, and improvements in knowledge management to support open science.