Think Tank Discussion

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Topics

- Group 1 - What are the big challenges for Agriculture in African context?

- Group 2 - What tools are used for agri using satellite / remote data collection (known and wish list)?

- Group 3 - Which are the Data sets that we would like to use (existing or not)?

- Group 4 - What are the practical , technical, policy, implementation obstacles to Location aspects/Geotechnologies for Agriculture?

Participants

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Key research issues and trends

- Inter-sectoral policy framework on data collection, analysis and dissemination (NSDI)

- Institutional Capacity on Research and development

Key Opportunities

- Adopting open data sharing
- Using available open data
- Technological advancement (Internet, Smart Phones, PDAs)
- Digital Soil mapping
- Youth participation in agriculture
- Developing infrastructure
- Changing livelihood and emerging trends
- Availability of market information
- Agricultural microfinancing

Mid term (3-5 year) challenges

- Rigid framework for data sharing
- Weak institutional capacity
- Duplication of efforts in data collection
- Data parameter inconsistency & poor quality (e.g mismatch)

Possible solutions to midterm challenges

- Development of clear policy &framework on data sharing
- Institutional capacity building
- Harmonization of data collection efforts
- Stronger NSDI

Long term (10 year) research challenges

- Rapid advances in technology Vs Govt investments
- Weak NSDI feeding up to the GSDI
- Poor harmonization of global and national research agenda and data collection initiatives
- Low funding by governments for strategic data collection e.g soil mapping

Possible solutions to long term challenges

- Open data and open software approach by govt to trigger uptake of technology and activities geared towards data collection
- Private Public Strategic Partnerships
- AFSIS/Global forums e.g Globasoilmap.net
- Periodic Capacity development

Identify at least three key research questions for discussion

- How frequent do the national govts generate and update their agri-GIS data sets?

- What is the role of agriGIS (open data) in enhancing food security in a nation?

- What are the challenges facing in-country NSDI development?