

Meeting Summary from 2nd GEOGLAM Advisory Committee Meeting FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy 24 June 2016

Welcome

The GEOGLAM Advisory Committee (AC) Co-Chairs Ann Bartuska and He Changchui opened the meeting, welcomed AC Members and introduced Deputy Director General Semedo.

Deputy Director General (FAO) Semedo graciously welcomed the GEOGLAM AC and highlighted the importance of geospatial information for preventing future food crises, particularly the quality of, and access to, this information; linkages with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly #1 and #2; linkages to climate change, and expressed her appreciation for the AMIS/GEOGLAM partnership and looks forward to increased collaboration with GEOGLAM.

***ACTION:** Consider establishing a formal MOU with FAO for GEOGLAM partnership [GEO Secretariat].*

Opening Session

AC Members were reminded of the following meeting objectives:

- Review of first AC meeting recommendations, and GEOGLAM implementation team follow up
- Advice on GEOGLAM program priorities, challenges, and funding; and
- New business including opportunities following the renewed GEOGLAM-AMIS partnership and the renewed G20 commitment.

The AC welcomed the following new members --the European Union, Greece, AUC, IFPRI, and WFP, and welcomed ESA as a new Observer.

He Changchui introduced the AC Recommendations ([available here](#)) from the 1st AC meeting, in Mexico City.

Updates from AC Members – The President of the WMO Commission on Agricultural Meteorology (CAgM) updated the AC on recent efforts of Nanjing University to establish a Center for addressing Agriculture and Climate and their interest in partnering with GEOGLAM.

The AMIS Secretary welcomed GEOGLAM as a Member of the AMIS Steering Committee; reported that in October 2016 AMIS will celebrate its 5-year anniversary; remarked that success lies in networking capacities, particularly for innovation, at the Secretariat level, and at the field (national) level; and reinforced the importance of technological linkages and advancements that will be derived from a strong AMIS/GEOGLAM partnership.

Reflections from the AMIS-GEOGLAM Session at the AMIS meeting found in-country collaboration to be good, and encouraged its continued strengthening; encouraged the data-to-information transition; and that information sharing is essential. Feedback was sought from AMIS on where (with which countries) GEOGLAM could do more for AMIS. While there are 10-12 countries where more can be done, they would like to see more involvement from Korea, Nigeria, and Egypt. AMIS indicated three priorities for research: within-season crop type, quantitative indicators, and forward-looking market indicators.

The AC thanked Australia, Canada, China, and France for their efforts to seek G20 re-endorsement ([available here](#)) through the MACS (Agricultural Chief Scientists) Meeting recently held in China, and thanked the EU and others for their support at the meeting.

***ACTION:** GEOGLAM should seek to be on the MACS agenda on an annual basis, and that the AC members will support that initiative, starting with 2017 [GEOGLAM Secretariat].*

***ACTION:** Follow-up with contact from Germany, as host of next G20 meetings [GEOGLAM Secretariat].*

Presentations from GEOGLAM Implementation Team

The Implementation Team provided a detailed account of how they have responded to the AC's recommendations from the 1st meeting in Mexico City ([Available here](#)).

Additional discussion was held on private sector engagement with a proposal to think of this engagement in 3 tiers, with a value proposition drafted for each:

- Commercial satellite data providers and/or IT providers;
- Agricultural information providers;
- The agricultural industry.

A suggestion was made to consider the major actors in the commercial sector, who we aim to target. The AC acknowledged that much happens from the bottom-up, whereas the AC primarily works top down.

Lastly, from a communications perspective, the Implementation Team should ensure that the key efforts from all members should be added to the GEOGLAM website, as well as the documents from these meetings.

Detailed Program Updates ([available here](#)) from each component were provided. The AC asked the following questions, with the Implementation Team responses in [brackets]:

- How much hindcasting (and forecasting) can be done [a lot because of Earth observations record (Data Cube type solution helpful), but we need sub-national statistics];
- How does the team reach consensus and with whom;
- Has the Asia-RiCE funding for Phase II changed [No, still looking for funding from CNES, ESA and JAXA]; and
- Who are the RAPP partners [Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Colombia, Mongolia, South Africa, Uruguay, USA].

GEOGLAM Priorities, Opportunity and Challenges

The Implementation Team gave presentations ([available here](#)) on five areas where advice and/or feedback is being sought from the AC:

- GEOGLAM Structure;
- Funding and Engagement;
- Linkages with Policy Communities and End Users;
- R&D Priorities and Transitions; and
- Earth observation Data Coordination.

Way Forward Discussion

1. GEOGLAM Framework and Strategy for Sustaining the Programme

DECISION: AC supports a consideration of a new framework, accounting for the group's discussion today.

ACTION: Refine framework diagram (relationship to climate change; relationship to SDGs, and need to translate structure into implementation) and circulate to AC co-chairs for comment [GEOGLAM Secretariat].

DECISION: AC recognizes that GEOGLAM Secretariat is below critical mass, and recommends GEOGLAM Secretariat make clear what its needs are.

ACTION: Generate a "concept paper" covering the specific roles required to reach critical mass within GEOGLAM Secretariat, acknowledging the support provided hereto fore, as well as an indication of a minimum working budget to reach that [GEOGLAM Secretariat].

2. G20/AMIS/Crop Monitors.

DECISION: It is essential that the Crop Monitors and linkage to AMIS be maintained at the highest level, emphasizing timeliness as a main driver.

ACTION: Expand partnership in Crop Monitor for Early Warning, with emphasis in sub-Saharan Africa.

ACTION: Encourage closer communication between the points of contact of AMIS and GEOGLAM.

3. Partnership Plan & Engaging the Private Sector

Engaging the Private Sector -- needs further discussion, possibly by a small group of AC Members (or their staff), to leverage GEO writ-large efforts/discussions.

ACTION: Establish a small working group of AC, Observers, and IT to draft a white paper on a partnership plan for engaging the private sector, within a 6-month timeline [AC Co-Chairs].

4. Global Security Indicators

Need to consider linkages with SDG processes with consideration of who is already working in this area, so as not to duplicate efforts.

DECISION: GEOGLAM can most immediately benefit by packaging existing activities to show how we can help measure progress toward SDGs.

5. Expanding the Membership to both GEOGLAM and the AC

For example, India and Russian Federation, who have previously been engaged at varying levels.

ACTION: Establish a small working group of AC, Observers and IT to draft out a white paper on expanding membership and participation in GEOGLAM [AC Co-Chairs].

6. AOB

DECISION: AC will not meet at the GEO Plenary XIII, but will consider having a conference call/session when the white papers referenced above are produced.

ACTION: Generate and circulate an updated participants (Members and Observers) list [GEO Secretariat].

GEOGLAM Advisory Committee FAO, Rome, 24 June 2016

Members of the Advisory Committee

Countries		International Institutions	
Canada	Tony McDougall (Deputy Director, Grains and Oilseeds Division, AAFC)	AUC	Jolly Wasambo, Project Coordinator, Rural Economy and Agriculture
China*	Changchui He (Senior Strategic Adviser, China National Remote Sensing Center)	AMIS	Abdolreza. Abbassian, AMIS Secretary
European Commission	Tassos Haniotis (Director, Economic Analysis, Perspectives & Evaluation Directorate, DG-AGRI)	CEOS	Alex Held (CEOS Chair)
Greece	Evaggelos Apostolou (Minister of Rural Devt & Food), rep. by George Zalidis (InterBalkan Envirt Centre)	GEO	Barbara Ryan (Director)
Japan	Prof. Seishi Ninomiya (U. Tokyo, MEXT)	IFPRI	Joseph Glauber (Senior Research Fellow)
South-Africa	John Purchase (Agricultural Business Chamber)	WFP	Menghestab Haile (Deputy Country Director)
USA*	Ann Bartuska (Deputy Under Secretary, USDA), Debra Peters (OSC, Alternate)	WMO	Prof. B.-L. Lee (President, Commission of Agricultural Meteorology)
NGO / Foundations			
BMGF	Stan Wood, Senior Program Officer		

*Advisory Committee Co-Chairs

Observers to the Advisory Committee

ESA	Benjamin Koetz, ESRIN
NASA	Lawrence Friedl, Director, NASA Applied Sciences Program

Present	Absent
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