

21/06/2021

Ms. Hilary Hanahoe
Research Data Alliance
Rutherford Appleton Laboratory
Harwell
Oxford
Didcot
Oxfordshire, OX11 0QX
United Kingdom

Dear Ms. Hanahoe,

On behalf of Rothamsted Research, it is our pleasure to write this letter in support for the creation of an 'Improving Global Agricultural Data' Community of Practice within the Research Data Alliance (RDA).

Rothamsted Research is an agricultural research institute in the UK with over 175 years of research data, including Broadbalk and Park Grass, the world's longest continuously running agricultural and ecological experiments respectively. Over the last few years Rothamsted has benefitted greatly from engagement with the IGAD community by allowing us to promote our own work, and, more importantly to network, share ideas and best practices and develop new collaborations. More directly IGAD, alongside other RDA activities has had a significant role internally for promoting the need for better research data management and shaping our research data strategy going forward.

Rothamsted has supported IGAD through providing presentations, chairing virtual presentations/seminars and active participation in Working Groups. Staff time and resources allowing, Rothamsted will continue to play an active role in the IGAD community, especially where its work closely aligns with our own priorities. Rothamsted is also actively adopting IGAD working group recommendations from the Agrisemantics and Wheat Data Interoperability Groups.

Raising IGAD from an Interest Group to a Community of Practice is, I believe, a well-deserved recognition of the work and commitment of the Chairs and community that should bring increased visibility and authority for IGAD's recommendations and best practices. As such, we strongly support the formation of an RDA Community of Practice for the area of agricultural research and look forward to further collaborations with your organisation.

Sincerely,



Richard Ostler,
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