

Ms. Hilary Hanahoe
Research Data Alliance

23 June 2021

Dear Ms. Hanahoe

On behalf of Syngenta, it is my pleasure to write this letter in support for the creation of an Agricultural Data (IGAD) Community of Practice (CoP) within the Research Data Alliance (RDA).

The Syngenta Group is simultaneously the world's largest crop protection company, and the world's third-largest seed company. We have a responsibility to help our customers use our products in ways that can maximize the profitability, sustainability, and freedom to operate of their farming operations. This is impossible without data interoperability, and a strong, global dialogue between industry and the research community is at the core of making that happen. Over the years that I have participated in the RDA's Interest Group on Agricultural Data, I have appreciated what a powerful resource it is for bringing together practitioners from academia, government and industry to advance a variety of critically important interoperability-related topics (e.g., agrisemantics). I think a logical next step is to create a Community of Practice to further empower the group to become a truly global resource for agriculture.

One of the IGAD's lasting effects was to inspire the creation of an Agrisemantics Working Group in AgGateway, an industry consortium of 200+ companies dedicated to promoting the implementation of data standards in digital agriculture. I chair this group, and it is our intention to continue to accompany the efforts of IGAD, as an industry partner that can help broaden the adoption of RDA recommendations.

In light of the above, Syngenta strongly supports the formation of an RDA Community of Practice for the area of Agricultural Data (IGAD) and look forward to further collaborations with your organisation.

Sincerely,

R. Andres Ferreyra

R. Andres Ferreyra, PhD
Data Asset Manager, Syngenta Digital