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Data: the next revolution for agriculture in ACP countries

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HOW GOVERNMENTS CAN USE OPEN DATA FOR THE BENEFIT OF ACP COUNTRIES

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Executive Summary

Data available at country level is the most important one because it reflects the state of the society where citizens live. It talks about your country and your daily life. It is also at the country level that data is most abundant, as countries are collecting tons of data from census, to statistics to health, Agriculture or education information. However, in most cases, this data is not widely available to the public (entrepreneurs, NGOs, CSOs), but limited to officials and public administration. This situation is evolving since 2009 and the launch of the concept of Open Government Data in UK and US, where countries are now publishing their data widely on the Web. Every year since then new countries are joining the movement, and close to 100 countries are now releasing datasets. The presentation will introduce the challenges that governments face when engaging in such initiatives, highlighting the specificities related to low and middle income countries. It will also focus particularly on the technical level, the importance of preparing ICT tools used at the government level for such revolution, and the importance of aligning ICT strategy, and in particular ICT for agriculture strategies with Open Data concept.