Mapping Possible Paths Towards Financial Sustainability for Digital Research Resources

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Charge to Sustainability Working Group

RCN Aim 4.2: Conduct a detailed analysis and modeling of sustainability solutions for representative AgBioData member databases. This includes:

- Exploration of New Funding Avenues
- Investigation of Cost Reduction Techniques
- Assessment of Policy or Procedural Revisions Pertaining to Grant Funding
Prior and Future Actions of Sustainability Working Group

• Survey of AgBioData membership regarding sustainability (2022)

• Identification of possible exemplar resources (2023)

• Invitation of selected resources for further sustainability modeling (2023)

• Identification of existing sustainability models and lessons learned (2023)

• Release white paper on sustainability for AgBioData resources (2024)
Exploration of New Funding Avenues

• Voluntary membership
• Subscription models
• Implementing fees for data deposit
• Corporate backing
• Philanthropic contributions
• 'Freemium' options
• Crowdfunding
Investigation of Cost Reduction Techniques

• Collaboration in Curation and Software Development
• Curation by the Community or Data Providers
• Utilizing Shared Infrastructures
Assessment of Policy or Procedural Revisions Pertaining to Grant Funding

• Mechanisms to Capture User Interest
• Document the Importance of the Database to Its Stakeholders
• Mechanism to Capture Citations
• Tracking the Global Core Biodata Resources
Further Recommendations

• Exploration of bundling (e.g. multiple resources or services)

• Sustainability for many projects is based on diversification and addition
Questions to consider

• Who are all the parties that determine a resource’s sustainability model?

• To what extent, can you document and understand each party’s requirements?

• What does success look like for each party?
Personal Reflections

• Most models rely on understanding individual users constraints, motivations, and requirements

• Many models require a willingness to develop additional skills

• Benefits include improved rationalization and scalability
Thank you!

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