FAQ Wageningen Common Data Solutions

1. **What is WCDS?**
   The WDCC (Wageningen Data Competence Center) team is active in a new investment programme called Wageningen Common Data solutions (WCDS), supported by the ministry of LNV. In this investment programme we focus on the development of FAIR data infrastructure across Wageningen Research.

2. **How is this organised? And by who?**
   The investment programme is supported by the ministry of Agriculture, Nature and Food Quality (LNV). In WCDS we aim to support common infrastructure (Workpackage 1), (software) development capacity, research capacity, and material costs for technical implementation projects in Workpackage 2. Additionally the programme aims to provide value creation efforts (Workpackage 3), policies and guidelines (WP4), external opportunities (WP5), education (WP6), communities (WP7) and communication (WP8).

3. **What are the main goals of WCDS?**
   WCDS aims to create and support a shared set of data infrastructure and standards across WUR (focusing on WR due to subsidy requirements). With this data infrastructure we want to stimulate a new way of working with data by getting practically usable FAIR infrastructure directly into the hands of researchers. At the moment, making data FAIR is usually done at the very end of research or often not at all. By making FAIR data infrastructure available for all, we encourage FAIR-by-design working practices, to enable new ways sharing data, creating more opportunities for advanced data science methods and interdisciplinary research.

4. **Where can I find more information?**
   For all relevant information, you can become a member of the WCDS intranetpage at: https://intranet.wur.nl/Project/WURCommonDataSolutions

5. **Can I submit proposals for this programme.**
   The first round of projects has been submitted and reviewed, and projects have started in May 2023. We will open another round of submissions around October, for projects with running dates from January to December 2024 (12 months). The exact call specifics for this second round will be announced as soon as possible. We note that this call may be restricted to avoid internal competition.

6. **I would like to contact someone with my questions or ideas.**
   Please email data@wur.nl with your question, and someone will respond to you as soon as possible.

7. **Wat can WCDS do to support my research**
   The end results of the WCDS projects will implement FAIR data infrastructure into current working practices. This means that your research can be empowered to make it FAIR-by-design. This will benefit you by:
   - Reducing your needed effort to make your data FAIR
   - Enabling new data scientific methods by making data machine actionable
   - Keeping data better organised so it is more easily shared and re-used.
   - Making data from WUR colleagues easier to use for you, fostering interdisciplinary approaches.
   - Providing faster insights into large datasets, by being more easily indexed and combined.

8. **How will WCDS continue?**

We started WCDS with external funding from the ministry of LNV for 2023 and 2024. We will be actively looking for potential extensions with LNV, or with other funding sources. For instance, we have proposed to the ministry of EZK (with other TO2-institutes) a bigger project providing opportunities to continue WCDS. We welcome your further ideas to continue this programme. Maybe externally funded infrastructure projects may contribute elements to this common research data infrastructure, making your results more widely applicable. On the other hand, we very much hope that at some point current implementations from this programme will benefit your research proposals. We are interested to discuss opportunities.