



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS

working for Zero Hunger



The Agricultural Integrated Surveys Programme

AGRISurvey

DATA DRIVING DEVELOPMENT

Lack of data: The achille's heel of agriculture

Good decisions are based on accurate information. That truth is especially critical in the agricultural sector where national programmatic and policy decisions can literally mean life or death, well-being or starvation for citizens. Yet, the scarcity of high-quality and timely national data to inform decision-making across low and lower-middle income countries is widely recognized. Most developing countries have not conducted regular annual agricultural surveys or censuses in the last 15 years, and a 2015 assessment¹ showed that nearly half of the countries in sub-Saharan Africa could not meet the minimum set of agricultural data needs. Without these essential data, governments and organizations struggle to shape effective policies, encourage investment, target programs, and measure progress. The need for sustainable data systems is especially vital for the areas of agriculture and food security, which lack long-term investments. Furthermore, the international development community will not achieve or be able to measure Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 2 and its objectives to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture if the agricultural data gap is not filled.

FIGURE 1: AGRISURVEY COVERS THE FOLLOWING SDG INDICATORS



- 2.3.1 Agricultural Labor Productivity
- 2.3.2 Small-scale Agricultural Producer Income
- 2.4.1 Land Area under Sustainable Agriculture



- 5.a.1.a Agricultural Land Rights and Ownership
- 5.a.1.b Share of Women with Rights to Land

¹ 2015. African Development Bank Group. Progress on the Capacity of African Countries to Produce Timely, Reliable, and Sustainable Agricultural Statistics. See: https://www.afdb.org/fileadmin/uploads/afdb/Documents/Publications/AfDB_ASCI_Report_WEB_-_2013_-_2015.pdf

The solution is AGRISurvey

To address the problem of weak and scarce data, FAO is working with countries to build their capacity to implement AGRISurvey, a high-quality, cost-efficient approach to generate the critical data a country needs to understand its agricultural sector. The AGRIS method was developed under the framework of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in 2016-2107. It is a farm-based modular survey that operates over a ten-year cycle. The survey includes a core module collected every year and rotating modules collected periodically throughout the ten-year cycle. The core module is an enhanced production survey that remains largely the same in each survey round. Rotating modules address specific themes, and the implementation frequency varies depending on each country's agricultural system and data demand priorities.

FIGURE 2: THE AGRIS MODEL

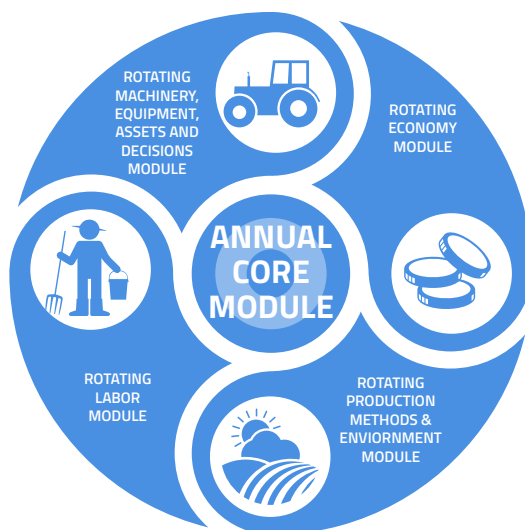


FIGURE 3: ILLUSTRATION OF 10-YEAR CYCLE OF THE AGRIS MODEL

Years		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Core Module	Agricultural holding (AH) Roster	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Crop + livestock production	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
	Other key variables	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●	●
Rotating Module 1	Economy	●		●		●		●		●	
Rotating Module 2	Labour		●				●				
Rotating Module 3	Production Methods and the Environment				●				●		
Rotating Module 4	Machinery, Equipment and Assets	●				●					

AGRISurvey support

The AGRISurvey programme aims to accelerate and improve the collection and dissemination of data on agricultural production as well as the technical, economic, environmental and social dimensions of agricultural holdings through training and technical assistance geared towards the implementation of an integrated system of agricultural surveys.

FIGURE 4: THE AGRISURVEY PROGRAMME PROVIDES SUPPORT ON THE FOLLOWING AREAS

Technical Assistance Services	Activities
Data use support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Integration of the AGRIS model in national strategic planning Develop tools for processing, interpreting, and disseminating AGRIS data Training on AGRIS data analysis and interpretation Training and workshops on Open Data
Survey design support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop national customized AGRIS model Develop customized, AGRIS-based questionnaires Pilot test survey
Sampling frame support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop master sampling frames (MSF) Develop sample design Training on sampling and MSF related to the AGRIS model
Technological support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training on survey management using computer-assisted interviewing Support to program questionnaires in Survey Solutions platform Training and support on employing GPS and geo-referencing in surveys

A global partnership

The AGRISurvey programme is supported by a global coalition that includes a number of FAO member states, international development institutions and private sector organizations, all focused on the common goal of achieving sustainable national data systems that provide high quality and timely agricultural data. Coalition members contribute technical, intellectual, and financial resources to the programme. Initial funding for the start-up of the program was provided by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The AGRISurvey approach supports the data needs of the UN's SDGs, particularly SDG2, and promotes the evidence-based decision-making the development community knows is required to achieve the SDGs. To further increase the impact of enhanced agricultural data, the Global Rural and Agricultural Integrated Surveys (GRAInS) partnership was formed by FAO, the World Bank, USAID, the Gates Foundation, the United States Department of Agriculture, the International Fund for Agricultural Development and several partner nations. GRAInS joins together the work of AGRISurvey and the Living Standards Measurement Study - Integrated Surveys on Agriculture (LSMS-ISA) to harmonize both programmes' use of the best available approaches, methodologies, technologies and practices. The GRAInS partnership enhances cooperation on methodological research and coordinates the scale-up of agricultural and rural surveys through a streamlined joint work plan.

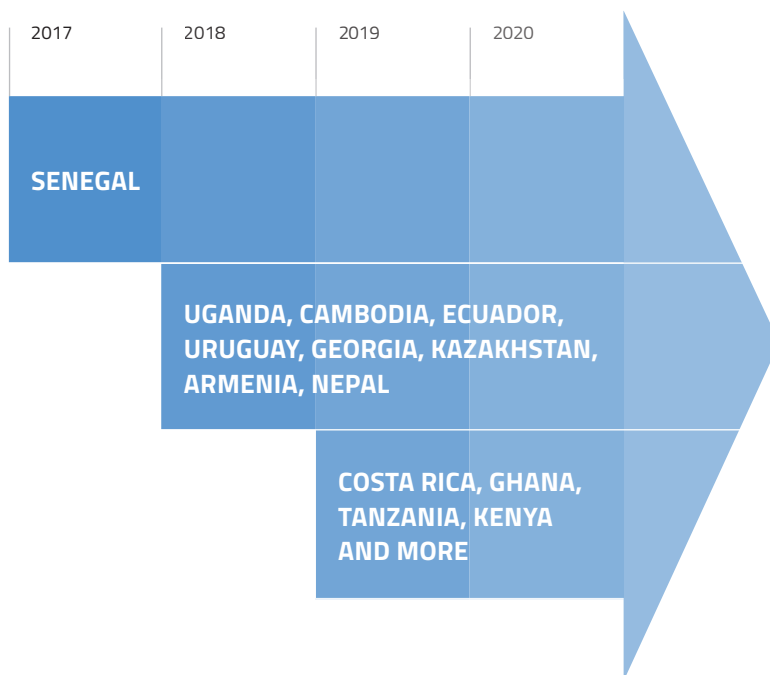
Future impact and sustainability

AGRISurvey methodology was first tested in Ghana, and full implementation began in Senegal in 2017 and Uganda in 2018. The programme aims to scale up implementation to at least 12 countries between 2017 and 2022. AGRISurvey is new but already shows strong signs of adoption by partner countries. Both Senegal and Uganda have chosen to adapt their existing farm surveys using the AGRISurvey model to meet more agricultural data needs at the national, regional and global levels. In both countries, the government is contributing a large portion of the resources to implement the survey and agrees to take full financial and technical responsibility of the survey programme in under ten years.



More contributions are required to sustain the scale-up of the programme. In each country where AGRISurvey is being implemented, resource partnerships will be established to incrementally draw down investor funding and increase host country funding, resulting in a sustainable transition to the partner nation in under ten years. AGRISurvey is creating a future where agricultural policy and investment decisions by country governments, development partners, and the private sector will be increasingly based on sound and timely data. Critically, those evidence-based decisions will be instrumental to achieve the productive and sustainable agriculture envisioned under SDG2 and pave the way to a world free of poverty, hunger, and malnutrition.

FIGURE 5: AGRISURVEY IMPLEMENTATION TIMETABLE (AS OF OCTOBER 2018)





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BILL & MELINDA GATES foundation



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