INDICATOR SUMMARY

1. Background
There has been considerable discussion over the past thirty years on how to define “sustainable agriculture.” During most of this period, sustainability was exclusively considered an environmental issue and was therefore measured as such. The 2030 Agenda requires that all sectors, including agriculture, be considered from the point of view of the three dimensions of sustainability: economic, social and environmental. This multidimensional role of agriculture requires it to be seen and analysed in a more holistic and broader context than in the past; that is, to include social, environmental and economic dimensions underpinned by governance and resilience.

SDG indicator 2.4.1, which is under the custodianship of FAO, will capture these multidimensional aspects once developed, validated, endorsed and operationalized. SDG 2.4.1 has been categorized as a Tier III, which means it does not yet have an internationally recognized methodology nor timeseries data. As part of this responsibility, FAO has been tasked with leading the work on developing a methodology for this indicator, which is defined as the “percentage of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture”, where agricultural area is defined as arable land, permanent crops and permanent meadows and pastures. The numerator must be adequately aligned with sustainable food and agriculture and therefore capture these three dimensions: environment, economic and social.

The initial concept was endorsed in March 2016 by the Inter-Agency Expert Group on SDGs and is summarized in a two-page metadata note (attached). The methodology has been further refined through technical consultations and will be included in an expanded note that will be circulated prior to the meeting. The document will present a comparison of previous attempts to develop a similar indicator and practices to defining sustainable agriculture; a proposed framework, with a selection of metrics by dimension and possible thresholds; the steps for calculating the indicator; and data collection strategies.
1. Objective
The purpose of this workshop will be to bring together technical experts and statisticians to support the methodological work being conducted for SDG indicator 2.4.1. This will include providing input and feedback to the draft concept note. In particular, there will be significant attention dedicated to reviewing the sub-indicators by dimension, thresholds, calculation and data collection.

The outcome of the meeting will be integrated into the final draft of the concept note, which will be peer-reviewed, adjusted and put forward for final approval and endorsement by the IAEG-SDG. Once the methodology has been approved, FAO and other partner organizations will begin field testing and preparing data collection guidelines in order to support countries in their monitoring efforts.

2. Participants
There will be statisticians and technical experts from countries, international organizations, civil society and the private sector.

3. Location and dates
The meeting will be held at FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy, April 3-5, 2017.

4. For additional information:
Amy Heyman
Programme Officer
Strategic Programme 2 ‘Sustainable Food and Agriculture’
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)
Viale delle Terme di Caracalla, 00153 Rome, Italy
Email: amy.heyman@fao.org
Tel: + 39-0657055339