World Agricultures Watch (WAW)

The World Agricultures Watch (WAW) supports a collaborative network of partners interested in monitoring and analyzing the diversity of agricultural holdings (from small scale family farms to agribusinesses), their sustainability and their transformations, to inform policy dialogue at territorial, national and international levels.

WAW directly contributes to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) which target the development of small-scale food producers and family farmers (SDG 2.3) and promotes the intensification of productivity of food systems through resilient agricultural practices (SDG 2.4).

What we do

Responding to country requests, WAW enhance understanding on the topic of agricultural diversity and rural transformations to inform policy dialogue.

To support its partner countries, WAW is developing a network offering products and services including:

- Common methodological framework and approaches to assess, monitor and facilitate policy dialogue on typology of farms and their transformations,
- Joint resource mobilization and capacity development to enhance capacities of participating national institutions / observatories to implement such methods,
- Honest broker to discuss methods and results, among the actors involved nationally and across various regions. (including South-South Cooperation, face to face technical meetings)
- Awareness building through joint publications, a dedicated internet site and events to inform international process and valorize partners work

The WAW methodological framework was initially based on a typology of family and non-family farms and their relation to market. It was tested and discussed with experts from FAO, IFAD, CIRAD and national partners from Argentina, Brazil, France, Madagascar, Malawi, Nicaragua and Vietnam.

In 2015, the initiative entered a second phase including 4 new countries (El Salvador, Niger, Tunisia, Senegal). The methodological framework is currently being reinforced to take poverty and production systems better into account and reinforce policy dialogue in all steps of its implementation. An international panorama of monitoring systems and analytical tools on farm typologies is being undertaken with several partners.

The World Agricultures Watch contributes to FAO’s Strategic Objective 3 - Reduce rural poverty
Results of typology work in Malawi

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Status</th>
<th>Pure Family</th>
<th>Family &gt; Hired</th>
<th>Patronal Family &lt; hired</th>
<th>100% Hired labor</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Labor</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Market:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% production sold</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>&lt;50</td>
<td>&gt;50</td>
<td>0</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of total</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>19%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Size of land</td>
<td>0.9</td>
<td>1.3</td>
<td>1.2</td>
<td>1.1</td>
<td>1.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Agricultural revenues</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>48</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Off farm daily wage</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>0.5</td>
<td>0.6</td>
<td>1.8</td>
<td>1.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% engaged in ganyu</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>57</td>
<td>55</td>
<td>29</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Durable goods (th of MK)</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% Only staples</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>75</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

In Malawi, a typology of agricultural holdings was undertaken. The typology included four types: Pure Family, Family > Hired, Patronal Family < hired, and 100% Hired labor. The typology was used to understand the characteristics of different types of holdings and their contributions to the economic, social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

Responding to global challenges

Growing global concerns over food security and environmental degradation have steered attention towards agricultural transformations issues.

There is an ongoing debate about the current and future roles of the different types of agricultural holdings, from small-scale to large-scale ones, and their respective ability to respond to global challenges such as food security, employment, environmental degradations and climate change.

Formulating and implementing public policies requires a multi-stakeholder dialogue informed by an improved understanding of the evolving characteristics of these different types of holdings and their contributions to the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. What is at stake is notably the future structures of agriculture for the next generation of farmers, including the place and roles of family farmers and the type of policy and investments needed to orientate sustainable transformations.

To increase international awareness and capacities on these topics, WAW contributed to integrate key variables into the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture (WCA 2020) to enable the development of comparable typology including family farms. It also collaborates with the Global Strategy for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (GSARS) to produce international guidelines on typology. WAW actively participated to the International Year of Family Farming in 2014, which recognized the importance to analyze typology of family farms and their transformations to inform policy dialogue and requested FAO to support countries in this area of work.

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Partners

IFAD
Investing in rural people

CIRAD
AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH FOR DEVELOPMENT

UNICEF
Liberté, Égalité, Fraternité
République Française