



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

FOOD and AGRICULTURE in the 2030 AGENDA

Bringing numbers to life

- From ending poverty, hunger and malnutrition to sustaining our natural resources to responding to climate change, food and agriculture lie at the very heart of the 2030 Agenda.
- FAO's Strategic Framework is aligned with the SDGs, geared towards tackling root causes and building a fairer society.

The proposal of FAO as "custodian" for 21 indicators is testimony to FAO's strong competences in monitoring, as well as to the centrality of food and agriculture to the whole 2030 Agenda

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On 25 September 2015, the 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – including 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets – committing the international community to end poverty and hunger and achieve sustainable development over the next 15 years (2016-2030).

MONITORING IS PART OF FAO'S OVERALL SUPPORT TO MEMBER STATES IN INTEGRATING THE SDGs TO NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT PLANS.

The success of the SDGs rests to a large extent on new and effective ways of collecting data and measuring progress. A global indicator framework comprising a proposed 230 indicators to monitor the 169 targets is the foundation of the SDGs' accountability structure. The sheer weight of indicators, however, represents an immense challenge for countries. Four times greater in number than for the MDGs, each indicator is also set to be disaggregated by gender, age, income, geography, occupation etc. to reflect the 2030 Agenda's guiding principle of "leaving no one behind".

Working with countries

With a broad mandate cutting across multiple SDGs, FAO has strong comparative advantages in its capacity to assist countries meet the new monitoring challenges. **FAO is 'custodian' UN agency for 21 SDG indicators**, across SDGs 2, 5, 6, 12, 14 and 15, and a contributing agency for four more, a significant increase on the four indicators FAO was responsible for in the MDGs.

The importance of adopting global indicators

While regional and national indicators can complement global indicators, only SDG indicators agreed by UN Member States will be used to assess progress at global level. Countries are urged to adopt global indicators in their national SDG reporting mechanisms to avoid drastically increasing the already heavy reporting burden, and to guarantee visibility in global reporting processes.

Provisional SDG indicators are at different stages

TIER	LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT	UN	FAO (custodian)
I	Established methodology exists and data already widely available	90	6
II	Methodology established but data not easily available	60	4
III	Internationally agreed methodology not yet developed and data largely unavailable	80	11
ALL		230	21

* Numbers are approximate; custodianship provisional.

KEY MESSAGES

Food and agriculture are key to achieving the entire set of SDGs

Investing in agriculture – crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries – and rural development are powerful tools to end poverty and hunger, and open the door to sustainable development. Agriculture can play a major role in combating climate change.

We can end hunger and poverty by 2030

The 2030 Agenda's historic commitment can become a reality – if we work together. The interconnected Agenda means actors must partner and share knowledge to support countries implement and monitor the SDGs.

Ready and able to support

A specialized UN agency, FAO's experience working with development actors and unique expertise in the three dimensions of sustainable development can assist countries implement the 2030 Agenda.

12 AREAS OF FAO FOCUS

FAO is investing greatly in developing indicators that can be adopted universally, efficiently and cost-effectively, with potential for data to be disaggregated and reported regularly.

Together with strengthening statistical measures for hunger, malnutrition and agriculture, FAO is crafting a set of indicators that capture the sustainable use and management of natural resources, across multiple SDGs. From earth observation satellites to mapping technology to video-capturing drones, FAO is embracing innovation that will transform the speed and accuracy of data collection, striking new partnerships as part of a long-term investment.

TOWARDS ZERO HUNGER

FACT: Around 800 million people suffer from hunger, and malnutrition affects almost one in three people on the planet

INDICATORS: SDG2.1.1 (Tier I) and SDG2.1.2 (I)

MEASURING: Food insecurity

IMPACT: Inexpensive and easy to use (household surveys) with data speedily available and disaggregated by individual and region, the new Food Insecurity Experience Scale complements the existing Prevalence of Undernourishment. Ideal for evidence-based policymaking to ensure no one and no area is left behind.

EQUITABLE GROWTH

FACT: Making up over 90 percent of the world's 570 million farms, smallholders produce most of the world's food but also house the majority of its poor and hungry

INDICATORS: SDG2.3.1 (III) and SDG2.3.2 (III)

MEASURING: The income and productivity of small-scale food producers

IMPACT: A complete breakdown of who smallholders are, what they earn and how much they produce. Vital for government efforts to drive nation's economy, eliminate hunger and poverty and reduce inequality.

MAKING MORE WITH LESS

FACT: Natural resources are diminishing yet food production must rise by 60 percent to nourish a global population projected to rise to around 10 billion in 2050

INDICATOR: SDG2.4.1 (III)

MEASURING: The sustainability of agricultural production

IMPACT: Evidence on agricultural techniques that are sensitive to climate change, and environmentally as well as socially and economically sustainable. Intelligence on intensifying production to create greater yields using fewer inputs

THE SPICE OF LIFE

FACT: About 17 percent of the world's livestock breeds are classified as dying out; three-quarters of crop genetic diversity has been lost since the 1900s

INDICATORS: SDG2.5.1 (III); SDG2.5.2 (II)

MEASURING: The biodiversity of plants and animals

IMPACT: Information that will safeguard precious plant and animal varieties and ensure the nation enjoys a diverse and nutritious diet long into the future

REAP WHAT YOU SOW

FACT: GDP growth originating in agriculture is at least twice as effective in reducing poverty as growth generated in non-agriculture sectors

INDICATOR: SDG2.a.1 (I)

MEASURING: Investment in agriculture

IMPACT: Spending data gives potential for improved food security, reduced inequalities, inclusive growth and creation of decent jobs

STABILITY AND SECURITY

FACT: The dramatic increase in world food prices in 2007/2008 led to a global crisis causing political instability and social unrest in both developing and developed nations

INDICATOR: SDG2.c.1 (II)

MEASURING: Food price volatility

IMPACT: Gives regular price information on a basket of goods to help ensure appropriate measures can be taken to offset hikes

AGENTS OF CHANGE

FACT: If women had the same access to resources and opportunities as men, the number of poor and hungry would fall significantly

INDICATORS: SDG5.a.1 (III); SDG5.a.2 (II)

MEASURING: Women's access to agricultural land ownership

IMPACT: Evidence of the extent of women's disadvantages in ownership of and rights to land, as well as equal legal rights to land ownership. Provides a basis for policy measures aimed at securing equal opportunities and access to rights and resources

A SEA OF OPPORTUNITY

FACT: The oceans can meet the food demand of a growing population, but overfishing and unmanaged aquaculture expansion are depleting stocks and threatening livelihoods and ecosystems.

INDICATORS: SDG14.4.1 (I); SDG14.6.1 (III); SDG14.b.1 (III)

MEASURING: Fish stocks and illegal fishing and legal rights for small-scale fishers

IMPACT: A full picture of marine activity giving countries intelligence on optimum levels of fishing, aquaculture expansion and fair and legal access to waters. Basis for Blue Growth initiatives.

THE SOURCE OF LIFE

FACT: Two-thirds of the world population could be living in water-stressed countries by 2025 if current consumption patterns continue

INDICATORS: SDG6.4.1 (III); SDG6.4.2 (I)

MEASURING: Water efficiency and stress

IMPACT: Taps into a fountain of knowledge on the efficiency of water resources and sustainability of water usage. Vital for ensuring water resources support ecosystems and continue to be available for future generations

THE MAGIC OF FORESTS

FACT: Forests contain over 80 percent of terrestrial biodiversity; mountains provide 70 percent of the world's freshwater resources for domestic, agricultural and industrial consumption

INDICATORS: SDG15.1.1 (I); SDG15.2.1 (I/III); 15.4.2 (II)

MEASURING: Sustainable forests and mountains

IMPACT: Ensures forests and mountains are efficiently managed, and a better balance struck between conservation and sustainable use of natural resources

WASTE NOT, WANT NOT

FACT: About a third of the food we produce is lost or wasted, and with it some 38 percent of energy consumed in food systems

INDICATOR: SDG12.3.1 (III)

MEASURING: Food loss and waste

IMPACT: Identifies food losses on the journey from farm to household. Evidence offers basis for improvements in food storage, hygiene, transport and general functioning of food systems

A LAND OF PLENTY

FACT: A third of the planet's soils are degraded

INDICATOR: SDG15.3.1 (III)

MEASURING: Land degradation

IMPACT: Instant information on the performance of measures to combat desertification and improve degraded lands and soils, and lands affected by drought and flooding. Evidence crucial for increasing yield and mitigating climate change

EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION-MAKING

Data are rapidly emerging as the world's great untapped resource. Bigger and better data have the potential to drive achievement in the great battle against poverty and hunger, ensure development is balanced and sustainable, and allow for surgical interventions in responding to climate change.

Together with the ability to review progress towards achieving objectives, effective monitoring offers countries vital information on which groups of people or areas of the country are being "left behind". Policymakers also need better data to design and roll out food security schemes, social safety nets and research and development programmes, and to decide on supporting or taxing farmers.

UN specialized agencies, which combine technical, monitoring and policy expertise, are best qualified to support countries in making the all-important connection between monitoring and policymaking. Specialized agencies have the capacity and the authority to help countries shape new initiatives based on data analysis, facilitate partnerships that scale up action, and promote multistakeholder participation ensuring greater ownership.

WE CAN BE THE ZERO HUNGER GENERATION

There is enough food for everyone on the planet, yet almost 800 million people are undernourished. Tackling hunger and malnutrition is not only about boosting food production, but also about increasing incomes, creating resilient and sustainable food systems and strengthening markets so people can access nutritious food even in times of crisis.

Social protection systems can accelerate the transition from protection to production by supporting small-scale producers, particularly rural women, while helping to improve natural resource management. By working together we can make history and become the Zero Hunger Generation.

A sound indicator framework will turn the SDGs and their targets into a management tool to help countries develop policies and allocate resources

FAO CAN SUPPORT COUNTRIES TO:

- » Set national priorities and targets
- » Foster strong and coherent institutional and policy environments
- » Engage all actors in national policy processes contributing to innovative partnerships
- » Strengthen capacities of national statistical institutions to produce global/national indicators
- » Collect and ensure data are comparable and aggregated at sub-regional/regional/global levels
- » Report on challenges and results
- » Contribute to mobilizing resources to support national efforts
- » Implement inclusive and cross-cutting policy products
- » Contribute to the global follow-up and review of SDGs

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