



منظمة الأغذية
والزراعة للأمم
المتحدة

联合国
粮食及
农业组织

Food and
Agriculture
Organization
of the
United Nations

Organisation des
Nations Unies
pour
l'alimentation
et l'agriculture

Продовольственная и
сельскохозяйственная
организация
Объединенных
Наций

Organización
de las
Naciones Unidas
para la
Alimentación y la
Agricultura

ASIA AND PACIFIC COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION

Nadi, Fiji, 19 – 23 March 2018

Agenda Item 6.1

**The Global SDG indicators' process and
FAO's role in monitoring the SDGs**

Contributed by: Pietro Gennari, Chief Statistician
FAO
Pietro.Gennari@fao.org

Process to define the global SDG indicator framework

- UN Statistical Commission responsible for developing the SDG monitoring framework
- Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators (IAEG-SDG) to prepare an initial proposal and oversee this work through to 2030
 - 28 countries as members, representing their respective regions;
 - International organizations only as observers;
- GIF endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2017.
- Resolution A/RES/71/313 adopted by ECOSOC on 7 June and by the UN General Assembly on 6 July 2017.

=> The process for the selection of the global indicator framework has been led by countries

IAEG-SDG MEMBERS (JULY 2017)

Chair of UN Statistical Commission:^{*}

- Brazil

Eastern Africa:

- Ethiopia
- Tanzania

Middle and Southern Africa:

- Botswana
- Cameroon

Western Africa:

- Ghana
- Niger

Northern Africa:

- Algeria
- Egypt

Western Asia:

- Bahrain

Central, Eastern, Southern, and South-Eastern Asia:

- China
- India
- Tajikistan
- The Philippines

Oceania:

- Fiji
- Samoa

The Caribbean:

- Grenada
- Trinidad and Tobago

Central and South America:

- Brazil
- Colombia
- Mexico

Eastern Europe:

- Belarus
- Russian Federation

North America and Northern, Southern and Western Europe:

- Canada
- France
- Germany
- The Netherlands
- Sweden

^{*} The Chair of the United Nations Statistical Commission is a member of the IAEG-SDGs ex-officio.

Classification of indicators in three Tiers

- Based on the level of methodological development and the availability of data

TIER	LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT
I	An established methodology and international standards exist, based on which most countries are regularly producing data (>50% of countries/ population in each region)
II	An established methodology and international standards exist, but most countries are still not regularly producing data (<50% of countries/ population in each region)
III	An established methodology and international standards do not yet exist or are still being tested

The role of custodian agencies

- For each SDG indicator a custodian agency is tasked to:
 - Lead methodological development and documentation of the indicators
 - Support statistical capacity of countries to generate and disseminate national data
 - Collect data from national sources, ensure their comparability and consistency, and disseminate them at global level
 - Contribute to monitor progress at the global, regional and national levels (e.g. storyline and data for the annual SDG reports, Agencies' flagship publications)
 - Only the custodian agency is authorized to carry out these tasks, not other agencies
-

Global and national SDG reporting

- **Global indicators** are to be used for Global monitoring
 - **National indicators**, which can complement global indicators, are to be used for national monitoring (National Voluntary Reviews)
 - Global monitoring should be based, to the extent possible, on **data produced by countries**. Therefore the global indicator framework is a core set of metrics that all countries are invited to monitor.
 - If national data are not produced, regional and global indicators may not be produced
 - **Should we monitor both?** Commitment of countries to monitor global indicators, in addition to national indicators (par. 75 of the UN resolution on the 2030 Agenda)
-

Aligning national & global indicators

- Importance for countries of being visible in global and regional progress reports
 - Possibility of benchmarking their performance to that of other countries: guidance for national policy decisions
 - Possibility for international development partners to identify the key developmental issues at global level and the most problematic countries, guiding their investment decisions and allocation of resources across countries
 - Importance for countries to align their national monitoring framework to the global one
 - Significant reduction of the reporting burden
 - Significant reduction of capacity development needs
 - Increased possibility of receiving technical assistance by IOs
-

Key Issues in global SDG reporting

- The IAEG-SDGs has developed guidelines on global data reporting. Document discussed at the last UN SC which decided to request further refinements. Main issues being discussed:
 - Should **global consultations be conducted to validate both the methods and the data**, whenever published? Or only the methods? What are the resources implications for both countries and IOs?
 - In case of discrepancies between international & national estimates of similar indicators: **should both values be published, explaining the differences, or international data should not be published?**
 - **Should data be reported directly to UNSD through national platform?** Who will do data harmonization and aggregation?
-

FAO's role in monitoring SDG indicators

Status of SDG indicators under FAO Custodianship

As of March 2018

Goal	Indicators								
Goal 2 (Food security, Nutrition, Sustainable Agriculture)	2.1.1	2.1.2	2.3.1	2.3.2	2.4.1	2.5.1	2.5.2	2.a.1	2.c.1
Goal 5 (Gender equality)	5.a.1	5.a.2							
Goal 6 (Use of Water)	6.4.1	6.4.2							
Goal 12 (Sustainable Consumption and Production)	12.3.1								
Goal 14 (Oceans)	14.4.1	14.6.1	14.7.1	14.b.1					
Goal 15 (Life on Land)	15.1.1	15.2.1	15.4.2						
						TIER	LEVEL OF DEVELOPMENT		
						I	Methodology established and data already widely available		
						II	Methodology established but insufficient coverage (<50% country & population coverage)		
						III	Methodology not yet agreed at international level		

FAO key areas of work on SDG indicators

- **Methodological development** (upgrading of Tier III indicators; testing methods in countries; new definitions; new data sources & survey tools)
- **Statistical capacity development** (data gap analysis; institutional coordination with national SDG focal points; training and TA across all 21 FAO SDG indicators)
- Supporting countries/regions in the preparation of SDG progress reports and **Voluntary National Reviews**
- Regular contribution to **global SDG monitoring** and reporting;
- **Communication and advocacy** on SDG indicators; Link with the FAO policy work

Overview of SDG indicators under FAO custodianship

2.1.1: Prevalence of undernourishment

- **Status:** Tier I
- **Definition:** PoU is an estimate of the proportion of the population whose habitual food consumption is insufficient to provide the dietary energy levels that are required to maintain a normal and healthy life.
- **Key issue 1:** Historically, the PoU has been calculated at national level only. Nonetheless, in principle, the indicator can be computed for any population group, provided sufficient accurate information. FAO can offer assistance in designing surveys that are representative at the level of sub-national population groups.

2.1.1: Prevalence of undernourishment

- **Key issue 2:** Historically, the indicator has always been calculated by FAO, but ideally, in the SDG context countries should calculate it themselves. FAO can offer technical assistance to allow countries to calculate the indicator themselves.
- **Capacity Development plans:** FAO is finalizing an e-learning course and has delivered various trainings on the indicator, including at the SDG Advocacy Event in September 2017.
- **Latest:** The latest figures were released with the State of Food Security and Nutrition (SOFI) report, 2017, while new figures will be published in the next SOFI in September 2018.

2.1.2: Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)

- **Status:** Tier II
 - **Definition:** The indicator measures the percentage of individuals in the population who have experienced food insecurity at moderate or severe levels
 - **Key issue:** Data for 2014, 2015 and 2016 are available from FAO for 146 countries, areas and territories included in the Gallup World Poll. Prospectively, data should be collected by countries themselves using the Food Insecurity Experience Scale survey module (FIES-SM) developed by FAO, or any other compatible experience-based food security scale.
-

2.1.2: Prevalence of moderate or severe food insecurity in the population, based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)

- **Capacity development:** FAO has already published an e-learning course and has delivered various trainings on the indicator, including at the Bangkok SDG Advocacy Event in September 2017.
- **Latest:** The latest figures were released with the State of Food Security and Nutrition (SOFI) report, 2017, while new figures will be published in the next SOFI in September 2018. As data for most countries still rely on Gallup, FAO will request countries' prior authorization to publish the estimates.

2.3.1 “Productivity of small-scale food producers”

2.3.2 “Income of small-scale food producers”

- **Status:** Tier III
- **Key issue:** Calculating income and productivity is relatively straightforward, but the definitions of “smallholder food producer” are highly diverse. FAO has been working extensively on an internationally comparable definition, including through expert workshops, a global consultation, and pilot testing for 30 countries.
- The proposed definition adopts a relative approach, applying to the bottom 40 percent of the distribution of farms in terms of physical size (land and livestock) and economic size (total revenues, PPP)

2.3.1 “Productivity of small-scale food producers”

2.3.2 “Income of small-scale food producers”

- **Capacity Development:** FAO will organize a training workshop on the two indicators on 26-27 March, and will also develop and e-learning course.
- **Latest:** The proposed definition of small-scale food producers, despite its relative approach and the consultations and testing it was gone through, is still very contentious. It was discussed at the last UN Statistical Commission and a group of developed countries suggested that more rigorous guidelines should be included to ensure that hobby farmers would not be included in the target population (previously, FAO had simply suggested that each country address this issue individually)

2.4.1 Percentage of agricultural land under sustainable and productive agriculture

- **Status:** Tier III
- **Key issue:** An internationally comparable, operational definition of sustainable agriculture does not exist yet. FAO has been working extensively on a new operational definition, including through expert workshops, a global consultation, and pilot testing in five countries.
- The proposed methodology centers on a set of 10 sub-indicators that would adequately capture the three dimensions of sustainability.

2.4.1 Percentage of agricultural land under sustainable and productive agriculture

- **Capacity development:** Guidelines will be prepared for country implementation by the end of the year, while other related capacity development material, including an e-learning module, will be developed as well.
- **Latest:** An initial draft of the proposed methodology was presented to the IAEG-SDG in November 2017. The IAEG-SDG deemed the methodology too complex and certain sub-indicators inappropriate. FAO is currently working on a simplified methodology that will rely exclusively on farm surveys and will adjust the set of sub-indicators, in consultation with the IAEG-AG.

2.5.1: “Conservation of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture”

- **Status:** Tier I
- **Definition:** The plant and animal components are reported separately.
 - The plant component is calculated as the number of accessions of plant genetic resources secured in conservation facilities under medium or long term conditions;
 - The animal component is calculated as the number of local breeds stored within a genebank collection with an amount of genetic material stored which is required to reconstitute the breed.

2.5.1: “Conservation of plant and animal genetic resources for food and agriculture”

- **Key issue:** Both components are established metrics, provided by officially appointed national focal points, usually in the Ministry of Agriculture. Many countries however are not appointing focal points or are not updating data regularly.
 - **Capacity development:** Global training workshops were organized for both components in November 2017 at FAO HQ. An e-learning course is already under development and will be released in the next few weeks
 - **Latest:** The indicator was reported for the first time in the 2017 SDG progress report, and updated figures will be released with the 2018 report
-

2.5.2: Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk, not-at-risk or at unknown level of risk of extinction

- **Status:** Tier I
- **Definition:** Measures the percentage of livestock local breeds (i.e. breeds occurring in only one country) classified as being at risk, not at risk or of unknown risk of extinction at a certain moment in time. Risk classes are determined based on several criteria related to population size and proportion of breeding females, as agreed at the FAO Commission on Genetic Resources.

2.5.2: Proportion of local breeds classified as being at risk, not-at-risk or at unknown level of risk of extinction

- **Key issue:** The data are provided to FAO by officially nominated national focal points (usually by the Ministry of Agriculture). In practice however, many of them are not updating the data regularly, usually because they do not have the capacity to undertake the surveys necessary to measure breed risk status. As a consequence, 2/3 of local breeds are classified as of “unknown” status.
- **Capacity Development:** A global training workshop was organized at FAO HQ in November 2017, whereas an e-learning course is already under development.

- .

2.a.1: The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures

- **Status:** Tier II
- **Definition:** Agriculture Share of Government Expenditures, divided by the Agriculture Share of GDP, where Agriculture refers to the agriculture, forestry, fishing and hunting sector.
- **Key issue:** Data are only available for about 100 countries on a regular basis. However, differences in timeliness of data collection, compilation and reporting mean that this coverage is rarely available for year T-1 or T-2 where T is the current year.

2.a.1: The agriculture orientation index for government expenditures

- **Capacity development:** FAO has already released an e-learning course and will organize a global training workshop to 15 data analysts on 27-28 March 2018 (Ministry of Finance, Central Bank, National Statistics Office, and/or Ministry of Agriculture). A compact training workshop was also organized on the margins of AFCAS
- **Latest:** The indicator is being reported regularly as an SDG indicator since 2016

2.c.1 Indicator of Food Price Anomalies

- **Status:** Tier II
- **Definition:** measures the number of “Price Anomalies” that occur on a given food commodity price series over a given period of time, where “Price Anomaly” is defined as a Compound Growth Rate (CGR) that is greater than the historic mean CGR by one standard deviation or more.
- **Key issue:** FAO will rely on official commodity price data to calculate the indicator at national level, whereas for the global level, FAO will use countries’ officially reported food price indices (food CPI), which facilitates cross country comparisons as it uses a national level food basket.

2.c.1 Indicator of Food Price Anomalies

- **Capacity development** : FAO is finalizing an e-learning course and has delivered various trainings on the indicator
- **Latest**: Historically, FAO calculates the indicator of food price anomalies using country level data, but no country calculates the indicator on its own yet. However, FAO is now developing a new module, which would allow countries themselves to calculate the indicator automatically.

5.a.1: “Women’s ownership or secure rights over agricultural land”

- **Status:** Tier II
- **Definition:** A two-part indicator. Part (a) measures the incidence of people with ownership or secure rights on agricultural land, disaggregated by sex, whereas part (b) focuses on the gender parity measuring the extent to which women are disadvantaged in ownership / rights over agricultural land.
- **Key issue:** The indicator currently has zero data points. Countries should incorporate the new questionnaire (minimum 5 questions) in a national household survey (DHS, MICS, LSMS, Multipurpose, Household Budget Survey etc.)

5.a.1: “Women’s ownership or secure rights over agricultural land”

- **Capacity development:** A global training workshop was organized in Turin in February 2018, and several other shorter trainings over the course of the last year. An e-learning course was launched on 12 February 2018.

5.a.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control

- **Status:** Tier II
- **Key issue:** A legal, non-statistical indicator. The methodology provides for a thorough assessment of the extent to which the legal framework foresees women's equal rights to land ownership.
- **Capacity development:** A global training workshop was organized in Turin in February 2018, and several other shorter trainings over the course of the last year. An e-learning course was launched on 12 February 2018.

6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time

- **Status:** Tier II
- **Definition:** value added per water withdrawn, expressed in USD/m³ over time of a given major sector (following ISIC 4 sector categories)
- **Key issue:** The methodological development process took place over the past two years in the context of the GEMI project, carried out by seven UN agencies, i.e. FAO, UNEP, UNESCO, UN-HABITAT, WHO, WMO, UNICEF, under the umbrella of UN-Water. The consultation included a pilot phase involving five countries.

6.4.1 Change in water-use efficiency over time

- **Capacity development:** FAO delivered a series of regional trainings in 2017 and has released an e-learning course on the indicator on 12 February 2018.

6.4.2: Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources

- **Status:** Tier I
- **Definition:** ratio between total freshwater withdrawn by all major sectors and total renewable freshwater resources, after taking into account environmental water requirements. Main sectors follow ISIC 4 standards.
- **Key issue:** Data for this indicator are usually collected by national ministries and institutions having water-related issues in their mandate, such as ministries of water resources, agriculture, or environment. In practice however, it is difficult to obtain accurate, complete and up-to-date data.

6.4.2: Level of water stress: freshwater withdrawal as a proportion of available freshwater resources

- **Capacity development:** FAO delivered a series of regional trainings in 2017 and is preparing an e-learning course on the indicator to be released in the next few weeks.
- **Latest:** The indicator builds on MDG indicator 7.5 by also incorporating the environmental water requirements.

12.3.1 Global Food Loss Index

- **Status:** Tier III
- **Definition:** The GFLI is a synthetic fixed-base index that compares percentage losses in a country for two commodities out of five commodity groups over time and weighs them with their value of production at international dollar prices in the base period.
- **Key issue:** A new methodology for imputation of loss has been developed, which will generate annual loss imputations for each food commodity for all countries, for a number of relevant years, at the primary level of the supply-utilization account.

12.3.1 Global Food Loss Index

- **Capacity development:** In order to improve upon the data needs of measuring, monitoring and estimating losses, FAO has developed guidelines for measuring losses and in setting nationally representative samples. The guidelines cover grains, pulses, fruits and vegetables, livestock and fish products.
- FAO will organize a global training workshop at the end of April 2018, and is also preparing an e-learning course to be released in the next few months.
- **Latest:** At the last IAEG-SDG, member countries agreed to split the indicator into its loss and waste components and delegate the custodian responsibility for waste to UNEP.

14.4.1: Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels

- **Status:** Tier I
- **Definition:** measures the sustainability of the world's marine capture fisheries by their abundance. A fish stock of which abundance is at or greater than the level that can produce the maximum sustainable yield (MSY) is classified as biologically sustainable.
- **Key issue:** The indicator is currently only available at global level, covering the period 1974-2013. In order to allow countries to produce country-level data, FAO is in the process of developing and testing new methods for national level stock assessments. These however are controversial and will need to be approved by the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) as they could conceivably be used as non-tariff barriers to trade.

14.4.1: Proportion of fish stocks within biologically sustainable levels

- **Capacity development:** FAO organized a global training workshop with selected countries in November 2017, and is now in the process of developing an e-learning course to be released before the end of the year.
- **Latest:** The indicator was used throughout the MDG period for monitoring MDG 7.

14.6.1 Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

- **Status:** Tier III
- **Key issue:** A new, non-statistical indicator. It is based on FAO's biannual survey on the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) implementation which compiles country responses on IUU fishing action plans and on ratification and implementation of the FAO Port State Measures Agreement and the FAO Compliance Agreement.

14.6.1 Progress by countries in the degree of implementation of international instruments aiming to combat illegal, unreported and unregulated fishing

- **Capacity development plans:** A guide will be developed and embedded within the existing electronic CCRF questionnaire, which will help to ensure clarity and therefore an improved quality of response.
 - **Latest:** The new CCRF questionnaire was shared with countries in January 2018. As of last week, only 70 countries had registered and less than 30 submitted responses.
 - The deadline has been extended to the end of March, so all countries are strongly encouraged to respond. **Please take this message back to your relevant Ministry!**
-

14.7.1. Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries.

- **Status:** Tier III
- **Definition:** A strict interpretation of the indicator would be based on the System of National Accounts (SNA), referring to the fisheries valued added contribution to GDP by country (but without reference to sustainability). This data is available to FAO for 120 countries, including 18 SIDS.
- **Key issue:** An operational definition of “sustainable fisheries” does not exist. Until recently, this indicator was an ‘orphan’ indicator, which no international organization wanted to take under its responsibility. In November 2016, FAO agreed to be the interim custodian, delivering an initial workplan to the IAEG-SDG

14.7.1. Sustainable fisheries as a percentage of GDP in small island developing States, least developed countries and all countries.

- **Methodological development:** A fisheries economist to lead the process, participate in the three regional SIDS meetings in the second quarter of 2018 to receive feedback on the proposed methodology, followed by capacity development in a range of countries for adoption of the methods (training and e-learning)
- **Latest:** At its next session, the IAEG-SDG will begin discussing a list of 36 potential new indicators to be added to the SDG framework in the 2020 comprehensive revision. In this list, there are two proposed additional indicators for target 14.7, which FAO is now examining.

14.b.1 Progress by countries in the degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries

- **Status:** Tier III
- **Key issue:** A new, non-statistical indicator. Like 14.6.1, it will be based on FAO's biennial survey on the Code of Conduct on Responsible Fisheries (CCRF) implementation which also compiles country responses on the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries (SSF Guidelines).

14.b.1 Progress by countries in the degree of application of a legal/regulatory/policy/institutional framework which recognizes and protects access rights for small-scale fisheries

- **Capacity development:** A global training workshops was organized in November 2017, while an e-learning course was launched in February 2018.
- **Latest:** As with 14.6.1, it is imperative for countries to complete the online CCRF questionnaire by the end of March. **Please remind your relevant Ministry**

15.1.1: Forest area as a proportion of total land area

- **Status:** Tier I
- **Key issue:** Assessment of forest area is carried out at infrequent intervals in many countries. Access to remote sensing imagery has improved in recent years, but remote sensing techniques have limitations. The indicator is currently reported by FAO every 5 years, but the plan is to reduce the interval to 2-3 years.

15.1.1: Forest area as a proportion of total land area

- **Capacity development** : FAO is developing an e-learning course on this indicator and organized a training workshop in the context of the global meeting of national focal points held in Mexico, 6-9 March 2018
- **Latest**: The indicator is a continuation of the MDG indicator for 7.1. Data are available for 234 countries and territories.

15.2.1 Progress towards sustainable forest management

- **Status:** Tier I
- **Key issue:** The indicator is composed of five sub-indicators that measure progress towards all dimensions of sustainable forest management. The methodology provides for a dashboard approach, avoiding the pitfalls of an index to combine the five sub-indicators.
- **Capacity development :** FAO is developing an e-learning course on this indicator and organized a training workshop in the context of the global meeting of national focal points held in Mexico, 6-9 March 2018

15.4.2: Mountain Green Cover Index

- **Status:** Tier I
- **Definition:** measures the changes of the green vegetation in mountain areas based on the six IPCC land cover types, i.e. forest, grassland, shrubland, cropland, otherland, wetland, and settlement, as well as across six mountain elevation classes (based on UNEP-WCMC – Kapos et al)
- **Key issue:** The indicator draws on Collect Earth, a free and open source tool for remote sensing, which enables data collection through Google Earth.

15.4.2: Mountain Green Cover Index

- **Capacity development:** FAO organized a global training workshop with about 50 mountain stakeholders to strengthen countries' reporting capacity.
- **Latest:** Baseline 2017 data are produced by FAO using the Collect Earth remote sensing tool. FAO conducted a global consultation process in January-February 2018 to request countries' authorization to publish the data.

Thank you