85% of the world’s farms are smaller than 2 hectares.

500 million+ family-owned farms globally.

United Nations Decade of Family Farming 2019-2028

Six pilot-phase countries (El Salvador, Niger, Madagascar, Senegal, Tunisia and Viet Nam) are already in the process of scaling up operations. Most of them are setting up observatories in certain areas and some have expressed interest in doing the same in other regions.

WAW will host at least 21 country-specific projects in Asia, Africa and Latin America, in addition to a global platform to map the landscape of family farming around the world.
Why do we need World Agriculture Watch (WAW)?

The global farming population is facing a number of interrelated challenges: it needs to adapt to climate change, transition to agro-ecological farming to make agriculture more resilient, and improve food security, nutrition and income. To make such significant and essential changes, investment is needed at farm level. Consequently, family farms require tailored funding products and appropriate policy frameworks to ensure they have the long-term capacity to innovate. Farms, especially family farms, are highly diverse and generally have limited capital to invest unless they mobilize their own labour force (human capital). Unequal access to assets (natural, physical, social, human or financial) means farmers have varying ability to engage in different types of on- and off-farm activity. To be inclusive, we need to better target investment for all types of farm. If we are to leave no one behind, we must improve our knowledge of small-scale family farming. The type of investment we make today will shape the agricultural systems of the future.

Farmer organizations will be key players in this innovative information system

Farmer and producer organizations are, by and large, local associations that represent family farms. They are not connected to official agricultural information systems, so often develop their own.

There are drawbacks to current agricultural information systems, not least that family-farmer organizations are not decision-makers when it comes to the design and implementation of data systems and have no direct access to them. WAW aims to forge strong partnerships and bolster family-farmer organizations by increasing their capacity for data generation and analysis. In this way, family-farmer organizations and farmers themselves will be the primary beneficiaries of the WAW initiative, as they will reap the rewards of investment policies tailored to their particular type of farm.

World Agriculture Watch (WAW) offers a comprehensive approach and tools to examine, analyse and monitor agricultural transformation around the world, to identify patterns and drivers of change and assess their impact. While WAW collects data on all types of farm, including industrial agriculture, it pays particularly close attention to family farms, to better tackle the constraints on their development through investment policies.