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Social statistics

The social statistics team of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) provides evidence-based data to support FAO's and member countries' policies in reducing rural poverty and enhance rural development.

The team also assesses agricultural damage and loss as a result of disasters by developing methodologies, providing capacity building and conducting the gathering and analyses of data to strengthen the resilience of member countries.

The work of the team contributes to FAO's strategic objectives to eradicate rural poverty and to increase the resilience of livelihoods to disasters.

Area of work

The work of the social statistics team focuses on two key analytical products:

- > Rural Livelihoods Information System (RuLIS), a large-scale ex-post data harmonization effort that uses data from household surveys.
- > Measurement of rural poverty with a multidimensional approach.

The team is also responsible for international monitoring frameworks, in particular the following Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) Indicators:

- > Indicator 2.3.1 (Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size); Indicator 2.3.2 (Average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status); and Indicator 5.a.1 (Women's ownership of agricultural land).
- > Indicator C-2 (Direct agricultural loss attributed to disasters) of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (Sendai Framework) and corresponding SDG Indicator 1.5.2 (Direct economic loss attributed to disasters in relation to global gross domestic product).



Consistent with its thematic focus and in addition to hosting the FAO Statistics Division's Gender Focal Point, the team works in the following areas:

- > Decent employment statistics in rural areas and agriculture;
- > Social protection, migration;
- > Sex-disaggregated data and indicators; and

In terms of resilience as a result of agricultural damage from disasters, the team

- > Collects and compiles the data, including those for relevant subsectors
- > Undertakes capacity development on the methodology for collecting and computing statistics of damage and loss from disasters
- > Promotes reports and studies on the assessment of damage and loss from disasters in agriculture and its sub-sectors.

Core objectives

- > Generate harmonized datasets and disseminate indicators computed from household-based surveys that relate to rural livelihoods and agriculture, such as income/poverty/employment/social protection, in support of policy formulation.
- > Develop methodologies and collect data to support monitoring according to the Sustainable Development Agenda, particularly in relation to SDG Target 2.3 and Target 5.A; and the Sendai Framework.
- > Develop methodologies and undertake analytical work to enable measuring of the multidimensional poverty indicator that is specific to rural areas and to promote access to agricultural and rural livelihood statistics.
- > Promote the institutionalization of damage and loss information systems at the national level. Facilitate policy making and increase resilience with the generation and dissemination of relevant data and its subsectors at the international level.

Key products by statistical function

Data collection and dissemination

- > The Rural Livelihoods Information System (RuLIS) in support of policy formulation and the structural transformation of agriculture and rural economies.
- > Update FAOSTAT domains of employment and population primarily based on information gathered and compiled by the International Labour Organization and the United Nations Population Division.
- > Data and indicators related to damage and losses in agriculture as a result of disasters
- > Data on SDGs 2.3.1, 2.3.2 (small scale food producer's productivity and income) and 5.a.1 (Women's ownership of agricultural land) for international reporting.
- > FAO's biannual report, *the Impact of Disasters and Crises on Agriculture and Food Security*.

Methodological work

- > Methodological documents to enable the measurement of Indicators 2.3.1; 2.3.2; and 5.a.1 and Indicator C-2 of the Sendai Framework, as well as corresponding SDG indicator 1.5.2.
- > Methodological documents on the measurement of poverty in rural areas.

Capacity development

- > Training and technical assistance to member countries on the data collection, interpretation and dissemination of SDG Indicators 2.3.1; 2.3.2; and 5.a.1 and Indicator C-2 of the Sendai Framework, as well as corresponding SDG indicator 1.5.2.
- > Training and technical assistance to member countries to enhance national and regional capacities to compute harmonized indicators relating to rural livelihoods, following the approach adopted in RuLIS.
- > Training and technical assistance to member countries to promote the gathering and use of sex-disaggregated data and indicators.
- > Training and technical assistance to member countries to compute harmonized indicators relating to decent agricultural and rural employment.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

> Social statistics:

www.fao.org/economic/ess

> The Rural Livelihoods Information System (RuLIS):

www.fao.org/in-action/rural-livelihoods-dataset-rulis

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