



Evaluation of FAO's contribution to SDG2

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Why an evaluation?

At its 125th session, the FAO Programme Committee requested an evaluation of FAO's contribution to Sustainable Development Goal 2 - *"End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture"* (SDG2 Evaluation), and recommended FAO to integrate relevant UN agencies and development partners in the process.

The SDG2 Evaluation will adopt a formative lens to:

- assess FAO's past and present work on SDG2-related areas to identify good practices that should be expanded, areas for improvement, and potential gaps that need to be filled;
- understand FAO's positioning and its comparative strengths and weaknesses on SDG2, and opportunities for strengthening its delivery;
- explore the best options going forward to strengthen FAO's approach, partnerships and programmes in support of SDG2;
- serve as a baseline for future assessments pertaining FAO's support to SDG2.

The FAO Office of Evaluation (OED) will report the SDG2 Evaluation to the Programme Committee in two parts: at the 128th session (spring 2020) and at the 129th session (autumn 2020). The first part will focus on FAO's programmes and delivery mechanisms, such as some of the transformative elements of the 2030 Agenda. The second part will focus on FAO's external dynamics, such as the collaborative elements of the 2030 Agenda.

What is the focus?

The evaluation will cover FAO's efforts in supporting both developing and developed countries to set and achieve their SDG2 targets. Due to the interconnected and indivisible nature of the 2030 Agenda, the evaluation will also examine FAO's efforts in supporting targets that are directly linked to SDG2, also known as SDG2+. It will seek to answer the following questions:

- A. Is FAO positioning itself to offer relevant support to countries in achieving their SDG2+ targets?
- B. To what extent is FAO transforming, or should be transforming, its delivery mechanisms and programmes to better support countries in achieving SDG2+ targets?
- C. How is FAO collaborating with others to support countries in achieving their SDG2+ targets?

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Evaluation Calendar

Preparatory phase:

March – October 2019

- Conceptualization
- Evaluability Assessment
- Terms of Reference
- Recruitment of experts
- Establishment of the Reference Group

Part 1:

October 2019 – May 2020

- Definition of SDG2+
- Historical research: FAO's role in the design of the SDGs
- In-person interviews and focus group discussions in Rome
- Remote interviews with Regional Offices
- Survey of FAO staff and external partners
- Data analysis and report writing
- Presentation to the Programme Committee

Part 2:

March – October 2020

- Country case studies
- Case study of key signature products
- UN system-wide research
- Data analysis and report writing
- Presentation to the Programme Committee

How is it conducted?

The SDG2 evaluation will cover the period from June 2012 to December 2020 with a stronger focus on the period from 2016 onward, when the 2030 Agenda came into force. The evaluation will pay particular attention to the implications of the ongoing UN Reform when collecting and analysing data to answer the three evaluation questions.

Part 1 (October 2019 – May 2020) will focus on answering part of question A (positioning) and question B (transformation) through document reviews, metaevaluation of past evaluations conducted by OED, and interviews and surveys of FAO staff and partners.

Part 2 (March – October 2020) will revisit question A on positioning and B on transforming, while attempting to answer question C (collaboration) through country case studies, interviews and surveys of external stakeholders and FAO staff, and a UN system-wide research conducted jointly with the evaluation offices of IFAD, UNICEF and WFP to map which multilateral agencies are contributing to which SDG2 targets at global, regional and country levels.

Workshops with internal and external stakeholders will be conducted to validate findings, enhance ownership of the evaluation process, and build a common understanding on what FAO is doing to deal with the new challenges posed by the 2030 Agenda.

At the end of the second part, OED will summarize evaluation findings in order to draw overall conclusions and recommendations with a view of guiding FAO's future work in support of SDG2.

Who will be involved?

The FAO Office of Evaluation is leading the evaluation, and will ensure a wide dissemination of the report. Five external consultants with high-level expertise in domains relevant to the evaluation were hired to compose the evaluation team. The team will consult FAO staff and partners at headquarters, regional offices and in Member Countries, including from governments, resource partners, civil society and the private sector.

The Centre for Development and Environment (University of Bern) has been providing the evaluation team with valuable technical support.

An FAO Reference Group was established to guide this evaluation, composed of senior management at Rome headquarters (Office of the Director-General; Deputy-Director General-Climate and Natural Resources; Deputy-Director General Operations; Deputy-Director General Programmes; Economic and Social Development Department and Office of Strategy, Planning and Resources Management) and the five Regional Offices in Accra, Bangkok, Budapest, Cairo and Santiago de Chile. The Reference Group will be consulted throughout the evaluation process, will provide comments on the draft evaluation reports, and ultimately draft the management response.

All FAO evaluations and management responses are public documents and can be found at:

www.fao.org/evaluation/oed-home/en/
