(Sub)regional training course on SDG 6.4

Background

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), are new global objectives that succeeded the Millennium Development Goals on 1 January 2016. The SDGs will shape national development plans over the next 15 years. From ending poverty and hunger to responding to climate change and sustaining our natural resources, food and agriculture lies at the heart of the 2030 Agenda.

In this context, FAO is working with countries to ensure that water use in agriculture is made more efficient, productive, equitable and environmentally friendly. This involves producing more food while using less water, building resilience of farming communities to cope with floods and droughts, and applying clean water technologies that protect the environment.

FAO also supports countries to monitor water resources use efficiency, and level of stress, supporting economic development, and ensuring water resources are still available for future generations and to support ecosystems.

The project "Integrated Monitoring Initiative for SDG 6 - IMI-SDG6" is framed in the SDG process. The IMI-SDG6 project is carried out by FAO, along with other UN agencies coordinated by UN-Water. An overall project coordinator is based in Geneva. The main objective of the project at this stage is the development of a monitoring and baseline process for the monitoring of indicators related to Goal 6 targets. "Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all".

The Land and Water Division of FAO is leading the work related to Target 6.4: "By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity." Other UN agencies will lead the work on the other targets of Goal 6. Data collection and management are made through the AQUASTAT database.

This online training course is part of these FAO efforts to support Member States in achieving and monitoring SDG targets. Furthermore, the online training course is meant to be a preparatory capacity development activity for the face-to-face sub-regional workshop on SDG 6.4 indicators.

To whom this online training applies

The main target participants of this online training are the AQUASTAT National Correspondents and Alternates, where present or other water specialists involved in the monitoring of SDG 6.4. These are public officials, technical or scientific, from Member States, according to the following profiles:

1. Water monitoring or water management professional working in a Ministry, government agency or relevant technical institution involved in the water resources monitoring process in the context of the MDG or SDG.

2. Environmental statistics professional working in the National Statistical Office or in a technical or scientific institution relevant to the monitoring of water resources and the evaluation of the respective indicators in the MDG or SDG framework.

Objectives of the online training

- To describe the SDG framework and reporting process
- To describe the methodologies for the computation of the indicators of the SDG target 6.4
- To present the main interpretative lines the indicators 6.4.1 and 6.4.2 offer
- To identify needs and opportunities for further support from FAO to the participant countries, including establishing synergies with existing projects and programs, as well as identifying new possibilities at regional and national level.
- To present the tools and services through which FAO supports countries in strengthening the technical and monitoring capacity and mechanisms.
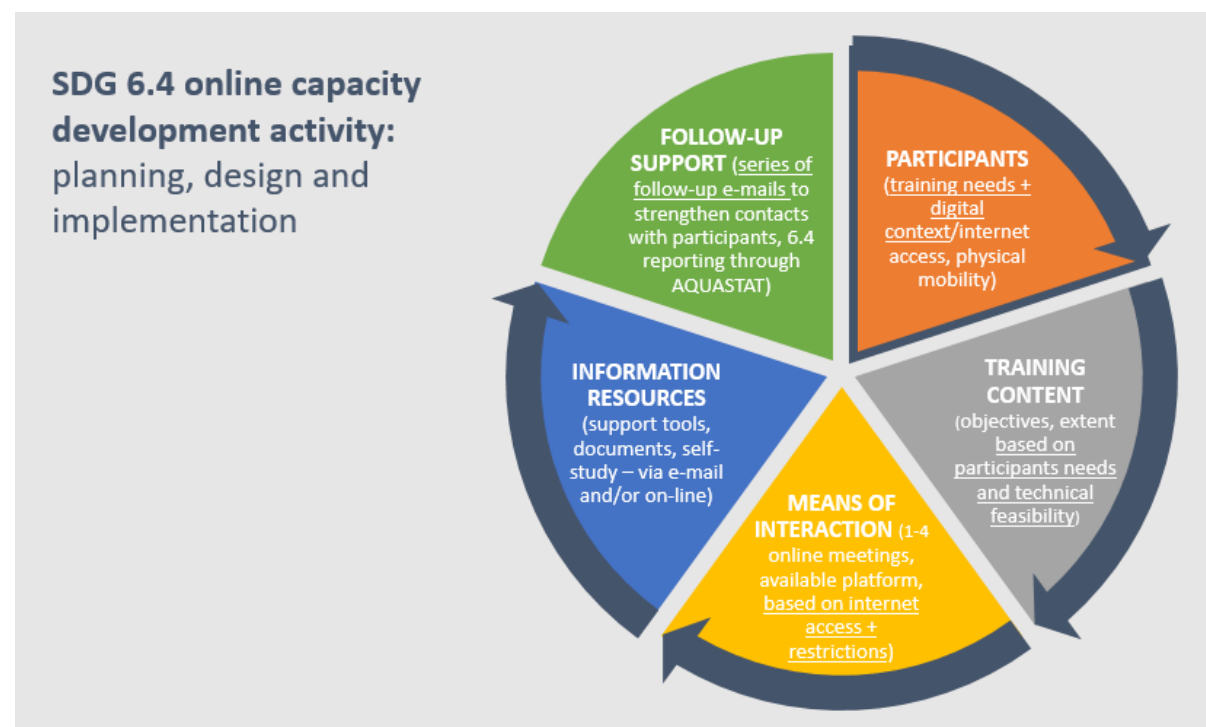
Expected results

At the end of the online training, participants will have:

- Improved knowledge of methodologies for the evaluation of indicators 6.4.1 and 6.4.2
- Better understanding of the SDG framework and reporting process
- Improved understanding of the SDG 6.4 specific capacity development tools available to countries

Planning, design and implementation of the online training course

The COVID-19 pandemic affected the modalities of the delivery of capacity development activities worldwide. FAO, as many other organizations adapted the face-to-face training contents to online environment. However, some critical aspects need to be carefully evaluated in order to understand the right extent and means of delivery and to evaluate the overall feasibility of the activity.

The below graphics describe the five key elements of the proposed online training course to be considered beforehand. At the moment, the principal element that might strongly affect the extent, interactivity of the course as well as the platform used is the participants' access to internet connection (quantity and quality) and the possible restriction regarding the mobility and gatherings imposed by anit-COVID-19 measures. Thus, the two following elements, training content and means of interaction need to be adapted based on the participants' possibilities to access internet. Information resources (capacity development tools and the follow-up support constitutes the anchoring factors of the course offering the basis for self-study.

SDG 6.4 online capacity development activity: 5-weeks training content

The following graphics describes the proposed division of the content 5 weeks. Each lesson should not exceed 110 minutes. The first line of the yellow boxes indicates the lesson content/IMI-SDG6 action. The second line of green boxes describes what participants are supposed to do (exercises). The last line of orange boxes indicated the tools to be shared with participants for the purpose of exercise and/or self-study. The graphics is followed by the table where more details are reported.