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AGENDA ITEM 8

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE MICRODATA (FAM) CATALOGUE:
A NEW PLATFORM FOR EVIDENCE BASED DECISION MAKING

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Outline

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What are microdata?

Microdata are unit-level information usually collected through surveys, census, and administrative systems. Microdata contain information on individuals, households, business, geo-graphic areas, etc and are rich input into policy analysis, research, and highly disaggregated (e.g. by gender, migration status, indigenous, age group, etc.) statistics.

MICRODATA ≠ NATIONAL LEVEL TIME SERIES

FARMER LEVEL PRODUCTION ≠ NATIONAL LEVEL PRODUCTION

FAM ≠ FAOSTAT, AMIS, ETC.

Why is FAM needed?

- FAO and member states **increasingly rely on microdata.**
- National governments and international organizations are embracing microdata dissemination as way **to derive additional value** from their **data assets**, and stimulate research which can be translated into development outcomes.
- **Donors and development partners** have started conditioning resources and assistance on the dissemination of microdata.
- **Sharing microdata** adds transparency to FAO's work, and promotes Open Data.
- **There is no single platform** which catalogues all agriculture and food security related datasets in the world.

What is the FAM catalogue?

- The Food and Agriculture (FAM) catalogue (microdata.fao.org) aims to be a one-stop-shop for finding micro datasets related to food and agriculture in its broad sense.

- FAM was launched on July 15th including more than 350 datasets including those used to compute the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), and national level datasets on agricultural census and surveys from Nepal, Nigeria, and Rwanda.

What is the FAM catalogue based on?

- **IT**: Based on the National Data Archive (NADA) developed by the World Bank and used by the World Bank, WHO, IHSN, SPC, Millennium Challenge Corporation, and around 40 countries and is the best tool for disseminating micro datasets. Link: http://www.ihsn.org/nada

- **Metadata Standard**: The Data Documentation Initiative (DDI) is the international metadata standard for survey data archiving. Adopting DDI allows easy data sharing and ensures that potential users adequately understand the datasets. Info: https://www.ddialliance.org/

- **Data protection, confidentiality, and policy:** OCS has drafted a microdata dissemination policy which adopts the UN Principles on Personal Data Protection and Privacy principles as well as the forthcoming Data Protection and Privacy policy of CIO.

Why countries might be interested to use FAM

1. **Disseminate or redistribute microdata**

   - FAM can disseminate countries' microdata when no microdata dissemination platform are available at country level and therefore, avoid/delay cost of developing/maintaining national platform

   - As a result of FAO's international profile, and high visibility, FAM will receive more traffic than any single national platform. Accordingly, this makes microdata/metadata shared through FAM more visible.

   - FAO will provide quality checks, and add potentially additional information to metadata which is then shared with countries and can improve the national platform.

   - All of FAM metadata are translated and presented in English which makes it easier for users to find and use the data.

Why countries might be interested to use FAM

2. **Access microdata and metadata from other countries**

- Microdata and metadata provided by other countries can be used to improve national data collection and production methods

- They provide an opportunity to strengthen country collaboration though shared data collection methodologies.

- Microdata from other countries can be used to inform policy design through comparative analysis of microdata from similar context.

- Reproduce, validate and build upon FAO statistics by conducting analysis using microdata files produced by FAO

How can countries contribute to the FAM?

1) Disseminate <u>metadata</u> only (redistribution of existing microdata)

- If countries already have a NADA platform, it is very simple for FAO to re-share the metadata by downloading the DDI file.
- If countries publish microdata, but not using NADA, then upon request FAO can develop the DDI metadata.
- In both cases, FAO will ask the country for final approval prior to publication.
- In both cases, FAO will provide a link for downloading the data to the national site.
- No legal agreement required.

How can countries contribute to the FAM?

Disseminate <u>microdata & metadata</u> directly

- A country can request microdata be shared directly through FAM to avoid the maintenance cost of their own platform under the following conditions:

1. They agree to remove all personal identifying information and anonymize further as needed.

2. Provide all related materials and required metadata.

3. Sign a legal agreement authorizing FAO disseminate through FAM.

How can countries use the FAM?

Access microdata from other countries

1. Anyone can browse the catalogue and search for datasets without registering.

2. If the dataset is contained in an external catalogue, the user will be routed to the external catalogue to download the dataset.

3. Otherwise, to download dataset directly from FAM, the user can instantly register.

4. For each dataset, a short request form describing how the data will be used is required.

A quick tour of microdata.fao.org

To show:

- Collections
- Metadata
- Related Materials
- Data Dictionary
- Microdata download

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FAM – Usage statistics

- First 3 months (July 15 – October 20, 2019)

Description	Usage stats
Page visits	14,756
Total Users	2,526
Registered users	150
Published datasets	354
Requests for data downloads	170

Next steps

- If you are interested in contributing data to the FAM catalogue either only metadata, or also microdata, please write to FAM-Catalogue@fao.org.

- Hope to publish pilot surveys on measuring post-harvest losses from Zimbabwe collected during the Global Strategy and migrate FAO/WHO GIFT platform to FAM

- We will contact a few countries with NADA platforms to discuss making their agricultural microdata sets discoverable in FAM.

- We will promote the dissemination of microdata files and the use of FAO in all our support activities to countries

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

THANK YOU