Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

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The agricultural integrated survey programme
AGRISurvey

Scarcity of high-quality and timely national data relating to the agriculture sector is hampering the effort of governments and organizations alike to develop robust policies that are based on empirical evidence. The dearth of such information, furthermore, prevents the measurement of progress against indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

To address these shortfalls, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) agricultural integrated survey programme (AGRISurvey) fosters the collection and dissemination of sound, harmonized, timely and regular data on agriculture in order to effectively support an evidence based decision-making process. AGRISurvey aims to support countries in their efforts to improve and strengthen their own national agricultural survey systems and to enable access to agricultural statistics. Data collected through AGRISurvey will assist countries in measuring their progress against the SDGs and national and international development indicators.

Area of work

AGRISurvey provides an innovative survey toolkit to assist countries to develop an integrated and cost-efficient approach to generate the critical agricultural data they need. The toolkit provides a farm-based modular system of survey that is synchronized with each country's national census of agriculture and operates over a ten-year cycle. While AGRISurvey's core annual data collection module focuses on agricultural production, its rotating modules collected with lower frequency, take into account the social, economic and environmental characteristics of agricultural holdings.

The aim of AGRISurvey is to empower countries to gradually take this approach on themselves as a means to generate a regular flow of statistical data and relevant indicators in response to national needs and priorities. As such, the data that countries will produce and disseminate will be of a high quality on the wide range of technical, economic, environmental and social dimensions relating to agriculture and will enable governments to better analyze and understand the impacts of agricultural policies; shape and implement better policies and programmes; and assess their progress against the SDGs and other goals.

Key products by statistical function

Data production and capacity development

Countries are receiving technical assistance to collect data to design and implement the survey programme that will best address their needs. Through the 50x2030 Initiative, AGRISurvey also offers financial support to collect data. The programme supports countries in defining and developing data collection tools, sampling methods and sampling frames and establishing a survey programme timeline. Technical assistance is provided in the development of relevant questionnaires, manuals, pilot tests and sampling design and training of field staff. In addition, the programme provides trainings on the use of advance technologies for data collection and management and provides support to switch from paper questionnaires to computer-assisted personal interviewing (CAPI) system.

AGRISurvey staff not only closely collaborates with partners at the national level in the data collection process and revision of questionnaires and manuals; staff also participates in enumerator trainings and supervision sessions, as well as in the data processing and production of statistical reports.

AGRISurvey enables countries to improve existing dissemination policies and programmes, ensuring that they become enshrined within their institutional processes. Technical support on thematics, such as the curation, documentation, preservation, anonymization and dissemination of data, is also provided.

Methodological work

AGRISurvey works on survey methodologies that are disseminated through the *AGRIS Handbook on the Agricultural Integrated Survey*, guidelines, generic questionnaires, manuals, and tabulation plans.

Core objectives

> Build the capacities of beneficiary countries to produce agricultural statistics, promote cost-effective surveys and produce a regular flow of high-quality, disaggregated data and indicators on the technical, economic, environmental and social dimensions of agricultural holdings.

> Propose new survey methodologies and innovative techniques to collect, compile, process and disseminate agricultural data.

> Increase access to agricultural statistics and improve the dissemination practices for greater readability, usability and findability of data, including microdata.

> Promote a wider use of farm-level data in various institutions, including government agencies and research- and policy-oriented entities.

> Provide support to countries in their effort to monitor SDGs indicators, specifically Indicators 2.3.1; 2.3.2; 2.4.1; and 5.a.1.

AGRISurvey programme

FURTHER INFORMATION
> AGRISurvey brochure:
www.fao.org/3/ca1459en/CA1459EN.pdf

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