Microdata and data sharing policies

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Outline

• What are microdata, and why should we disseminate it?
• Overview of Food and Agriculture Microdata (FAM) catalogue
• How countries can use FAM
• Examples from the region
• Proposed recommendations
What are microdata and why disseminate it?

Microdata are unit-level information usually collected through surveys, census, and administrative systems. Microdata contain information on individuals, households, business, geographic 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 PRODUCTOIN

FAM ≠ FAOSTAT, AMIS, ETC.
What are microdata and why disseminate it?

Archiving and disseminating microdata maximizes the value of surveys.

• Surveys are expensive!

• Only using microdata to publish tabulations results in under-utilization.

• Providing access to microdata can stimulate research translating into better policies and positive development outcomes.

• Using tried and true archiving approaches ensures that microdata will always be available and never lost.

Disseminating microdata builds trust and promotes transparency.

• As “data cowboys” (non NSIs), begin to produce statistics, publishing microdata promotes transparency and reinforces the NSI’s role as the trusted source of official statistics.
Overview of FAM

The Food and Agriculture Microdata (FAM) Catalogue (microdata.fao.org) aims to be a one-stop-shop for finding microdata related to agriculture, forestry, fisheries, and food security.

• Launched on July 15, 2019, FAM already contains 360 datasets including those used to compute the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES), and national level surveys from Nepal, Nigeria, Indonesia, Ecuador, and Rwanda.

• Funding provided by the AGRISurvey grants of USAID and BMGF through 2021.
Overview of FAM

No re-inventing the wheel: FAM follows international standards.

• **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](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/](https://www.ddialliance.org/)

• **Data protection, confidentiality, and policy:** OCS has developed a microdata dissemination policy which adopts the UN Principles on Personal Data Protection and Privacy and SDC best practices.
How countries can use FAM

Countries can benefit from contributing to FAM in the following ways:

• 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 is presented in English which makes it easier for users to find that do not speak the original language.

• Avoid cost of maintaining national platform.

• It maybe useful to study microdata from other countries collected on similar topics to inform survey design.
How countries can use FAM

Countries can use FAM in the following ways:
1. Disseminate microdata and metadata directly
2. Re-disseminate metadata only
3. Access data from other countries
How countries can use FAM

1. **Disseminate microdata and metadata directly** - A country may request that its microdata be shared directly through FAM which would avoid entirely the set-up and maintenance costs.

Conditions:

- Country removes all information that can directly identify data subjects.
- Provide all related materials (questionnaires, field manuals, reports, etc.) and required metadata.
- Sign a legal agreement authorizing FAO to disseminate microdata.
How countries can use FAM

2. **Disseminate metadata only** – A country can make their microdata findable in FAM by disseminating metadata and a link to the national platform.

Conditions:

- If country has a NADA platform, then FAO can download the DDI and re-share.
- Country can provide documentation and link to the metadata, and FAO will develop the DDI.
- FAO will ask country for validation prior to publication.
- No legal agreement required.
How countries can use FAM

3. Access microdata from other countries – Anyone can register to FAM, and request access to datasets.

Conditions:

• If country has a NADA platform, then FAO can download the DDI and re-share.
• Country can provide documentation and link to the metadata, and FAO will develop the DDI.
• FAO will ask country for validation prior to publication.
• No legal agreement required.
Example from Asia in FAM – Indonesia CA
https://microdata.fao.org/index.php/catalog/944

### Agricultural Census 2013

**Indonesia, 2013**

Agriculture Census and Surveys:
- Directorate of Food Crops, Horticulture and Plantation Statistics
- Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Forestry Statistics

**Coverage**

**Geographic Coverage**
- National Coverage

**Universe**
- Agricultural businesses, both in ordinary households, legal entities, as well as in addition to ordinary households and legal entities (such as: agricultural businesses in pesantren, seminary, correctional institutions, military barracks, technical implementation units, and joint business groups)

**Producers and sponsors**

**Primary Investigators**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Directorate of Food Crops, Horticulture and Plantation Statistics</td>
<td>Central Bureau of Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Directorate of Animal Husbandry, Fisheries and Forestry Statistics</td>
<td>Central Bureau of Statistics</td>
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**Producers**

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<td>Deputy of Production Statistics</td>
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**Funding Agency/Sponsor**

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<th>Role</th>
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<td>Indonesian State Budget and Revenue</td>
<td>APBN</td>
<td>Funding</td>
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**Survey ID Number**

IDN_2013_AC_v01_EN_M_v01_A_GCS

**Title**

Agricultural Census 2013

**Country**

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Example from Asia in FAM – Indonesia CA
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Data available from external repository

Data for the study is available from an external website. Please use the link below.

https://mikrodata.bps.go.id/mikrodata/index.php/catalog/398/get_microdata

Link to BPS’s national platform
Proposed Recommendations

The Commission recommends APCAS member countries, who disseminate agricultural microdata, to provide metadata to FAO to incorporate in the FAM platform.

The Commission recommends FAO to provide technical assistance to countries who do not disseminate microdata including anonymization, documentation, and developing legal policies.

The Commission encourages FAO to incorporate microdata dissemination as an activity in TCPs related to agricultural census and surveys.
Thank you!

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