Implementation of the SDG indicator 2.4.1 methodology in the Africa region

SDG indicator 2.4.1 (Proportion of agricultural area under sustainable agriculture)
1) Scale of assessment: Agriculture farm holdings
2) Scope: Crops and livestock
3) Dimensions covered: Economic, social and environmental
4) Themes covered: 11 themes
5) Sub-indicators: 11 sub-indicator (3 Economic, 3 social and 5 environment)
6) Sustainability criteria: classification of the farms as green, yellow and red
7) Data collection instrument: Farm survey
8) Periodicity of monitoring: 3 years
9) Modality of reporting: Dashboard and aggregate indicator
## Indicator Framework

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Dimension</th>
<th>Theme</th>
<th>Sub-indicator</th>
<th>Farm type</th>
<th>Reference period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economic</td>
<td>1. Land productivity</td>
<td>Farm output value per hectare</td>
<td>All types</td>
<td>Last calendar yr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Profitability</td>
<td>Net farm income</td>
<td>All types</td>
<td>Last 3 calendar yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3. Resilience</td>
<td>Risk mitigation mechanisms</td>
<td>All types</td>
<td>Last calendar yr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Environmental</td>
<td>4. Soil health</td>
<td>Prevalence of soil degradation</td>
<td>All types</td>
<td>Last 3 calendar yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Water use</td>
<td>Variation in water availability</td>
<td>All types</td>
<td>Last 3 calendar yrs.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>6. Fertilizer risk</td>
<td>Management of fertilizers</td>
<td>All types</td>
<td>Last calendar yr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7. Pesticide risk</td>
<td>Management of pesticides</td>
<td>All types</td>
<td>Last calendar yr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>8. Biodiversity</td>
<td>Use of agro-biodiversity supportive practices</td>
<td>All types</td>
<td>Last calendar yr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social</td>
<td>9. Decent employment</td>
<td>Wage rate in agriculture</td>
<td>Farms hiring unskilled labour</td>
<td>Last calendar yr.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>10. Food security</td>
<td>Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES)</td>
<td>Household farms</td>
<td>Last 12 months</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11. Land tenure</td>
<td>Secure tenure rights to land</td>
<td>All types</td>
<td>Last calendar yr.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Traffic Light Dashboard

Most limiting theme: at least 40% of the country’s agricultural area is unsustainable.
Milestones

November 2018
Upgraded to **Tier II** by IAEG-SDG

October 2019
Refinements of the *Biodiversity sub-indicator* → Revised methodology endorsed by the IAEG-SDG

2020-2021 and onwards

i) Country data collection
ii) Capacity development initiatives
iii) Alternative data sources and proxy approach to report on SDG 2.4.1

Progress to date

- Survey questionnaire and support documents prepared and tested in Bangladesh, Mexico, Rwanda, and Kenya – 2017-2018-2019
- Integrated the indicator’s data needs in AGRISurvey programme and 50x2030 initiative – 2019-21
- Translated methodological documents and data collection questionnaires in major UN languages i.e. Arabic, English, French, Russian, and Spanish – 2020-21
- Work stream initiated to explore the possibility of using proxy indicators and alternative data sources e.g. remote sensing, census, administrative records, etc. to bridge the data gaps for selected sub-indicator – 2020-22
Progress to date – Capacity Development

- E-learning course developed and made available in multiple UN languages (English, French, Spanish) – 2019-2021
- 3 Regional Training workshops covering 50 countries (including bilateral assistance to Bangladesh and Vietnam) – 2019-20
- 3 Virtual Trainings covering 29 countries (298 national staff) from 4 Regions (Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America) - 2020
- 2 bilateral virtual trainings for Pakistan and Somalia – 2020
- 12 customised bilateral virtual sessions for Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Malawi, South Sudan, Sudan, Switzerland, UK, Viet Nam, Zambia – 2020
- 6 Virtual Trainings covering 81 countries (488 national staff) from 5 Regions (Africa, Americas, Asia, Europe, Pacific) – 2021
Focus to African Region

- **Trainings**
  - Face-to face: Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Namibia, Nigeria, Rwanda, South Africa, Tanzania, Tunisia, Sudan, Uganda and Zambia - **2019**
  - Virtual: Burkina Faso, Malawi, Mali, South Africa, Uganda - **2020**

- **2020 Dispatch results**
  - Democratic Republic of the Congo, Kenya, Malawi and Mauritius reported real values on at least 3 sub-indicators each (Burkina Faso reported real values in 2019 – pilot phase)
Next Steps

- **Short term**
  - Work ongoing on Guidelines for use of alternative data sources (remote sensing, administrative records, census and others), test the approach in selected countries and publish guidelines – **2021-22**
  - Continue formal data collection via questionnaire on annual basis
  - Third and final round of first global data collection cycle is to be completed by and reported to UNSD in **2023**

- **Medium-to-long term**
  - Ensure regular SDG 2.4.1 survey data collection in close collaboration with AGRISurvey Programme, 50x2030 Initiative and Global Strategy (50 countries by **2025** and over 100 countries by **2030**)

- **Ongoing Capacity Development**
  - 5 countries receiving bilateral technical assistance in collaboration with RLC (2), RAF (1) and RAP (2) – **2021**
  - Bilateral technical assistance to Rwanda has commenced where the indicator will be integrated with national agricultural data collection instrument and tested – **2021-22**
  - 4 Virtual Trainings aiming to train all remaining countries that have not been trained during the years 2019-2020-2021 – **2022**
  - Bilateral technical assistance to other 4 countries by **2022**
Proposed Recommendations *in brief*

- Encourage countries to report on a subset of sub-indicators of SDG 2.4.1 based on existing data and to develop an action plan for adoption and implementation of the indicator;

- Support interested countries in implementing the farm-based SDGs (including SDG 2.4.1) in order to collect nationally-representative data.
Thank you

Contact us:
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Arbab.khan@fao.org
The Challenge Ahead

Heterogeneity

Data collection

Analysis and Reporting

Medium-to-long term: Fully Structured Farm Surveys

2025-2030+

2020-2025

Short-term: Alternative data sources: EO, Admin

2020-2025

Short-term: Alternative data sources: EO, Admin

2025-2030+

Analysis and Reporting

Medium-to-long term: Fully Structured Farm Surveys

2025-2030+
Progress to date – Data collection

- Pilot test of data collection questionnaire carried out in 45 countries – 2019-20
  - 21 (47%) provided some feedback
  - 7 (16%) provided actual data for some of the sub-indicators (only 1 with all sub-indicators)

- Dispatch to all member countries (195) – 1st Dispatch August 2020
  - 22 (21%) provided data on at least 1 sub-indicator
  - 40 (38%) stated to have data available
  - 46 (43%) informed on data non-availability

- Dispatch to all member countries (195) – 2nd Dispatch August 2021
  - Data collection in progress – deadline end of November 2021 (tentatively)
  - Results available at the end of 2021
Highlights Dispatch 2020 - Data Availability by Sub-Indicator

Based on 40 Countries (the ones that stated to have data available)
Complexity of concepts/methodology/definitions

Lack of data availability/time series

Calculation of the SDG 2.4.1 needs efforts and time

Information available but usually partially for the sub-indicators:

- “Prevalence of soil degradation”
- “Management of fertilizers”

Data availability is a challenge for the sub-indicators:

- “Management of pesticides”
- “Food Insecurity Experience Scale”