



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
GOALS



AFRICAN COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

28TH SESSION

4–8 December 2023
Johannesburg (South Africa)

AFCAS 28
LEVERAGING
DATA & STATISTICS
FOR AGRIFOOD
SYSTEMS
TRANSFORMATION
IN AFRICA

AGENDA ITEM 9:

IMPROVING FOOD AND
AGRICULTURE DATA
DISSEMINATION



AFRICAN
COMMISSION ON
**AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS**

Modernization of dissemination programs with application to agricultural survey programs

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Outline

- Introduction
- DISSEMINATION PROGRAM COMPONENTS
- A GSBPM-based Approach To Implementing Data Dissemination
- Conclusion and recommendation



Introduction

- Dissemination of official statistics is one key mandate of the agencies of National Statistical Systems (NSS)
- With the advent of information and communication technologies, the operational landscape of official statistics has been rapidly evolving over the last two decades

User-side

the demand for data has increased alongside with ever more composite expectations

Producer-side

IT-developments offers new solution to statistical organizations to move towards more versatile, interactive, impartial, timely and cost-effective release of data.



General Assembly

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda item 9

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 29 January 2014

[without reference to a Main Committee (A/68/L.36 and Add.1)]

68/261. Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

The General Assembly,

Recalling recent resolutions¹ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council highlighting the fundamental importance of official statistics for the national and global development agenda,

Bearing in mind the critical role of high-quality official statistical information in analysis and informed policy decision-making in support of sustainable development, peace and security, as well as for mutual knowledge and trade among the States and peoples of an increasingly connected world, demanding openness and transparency,

Bearing in mind also that the essential trust of the public in the integrity of official statistical systems and confidence in statistics depend to a large extent on respect for the fundamental values and principles that are the basis of any society seeking to understand itself and respect the rights of its members, and in this context that professional independence and accountability of statistical agencies are crucial,

Stressing that, in order to be effective, the fundamental values and principles that govern statistical work have to be guaranteed by legal and institutional frameworks and be respected at all political levels and by all stakeholders in national statistical systems,

Endorses the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics set out below, as adopted by the Statistical Commission in 1994² and reaffirmed in 2013, and endorsed by the Economic and Social Council in its resolution 2013/21 of 24 July 2013:

Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics

Principle 1. Official statistics provide an indispensable element in the information system of a democratic society, serving the Government, the economy

¹ These include General Assembly resolution 64/267 on World Statistics Day and Economic and Social Council resolutions 2005/11 on the 2010 World Population and Housing Census Programme, 2006/6 on strengthening statistical capacity and 2013/21 on the Fundamental Principles of Official Statistics.

² For the original preface used on the occasion of the initial adoption of the Fundamental Principles in 1994, see chapter V of the report of the Statistical Commission on its special session (Official Records of the Economic and Social Council, 1994, Supplement No. 9 (E/1994/9)). More information on the Fundamental Principles and their history is available from the website of the Statistics Division.

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Please recycle





DISSEMINATION PROGRAM COMPONENTS (1/7)

In the context of 50x2030 Initiative, the statistics division of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) supports countries at establishing robust national agricultural data systems.

The list of proposed outputs builds around:

A statistical bulletin with main results from the annual agricultural survey available.

Interactive statistical tables released on a data portal, in compliance with Open Data standards.

Dissemination of agricultural survey microdata and associated metadata.

Data highlights for wide sharing through instant communication channels and the media.

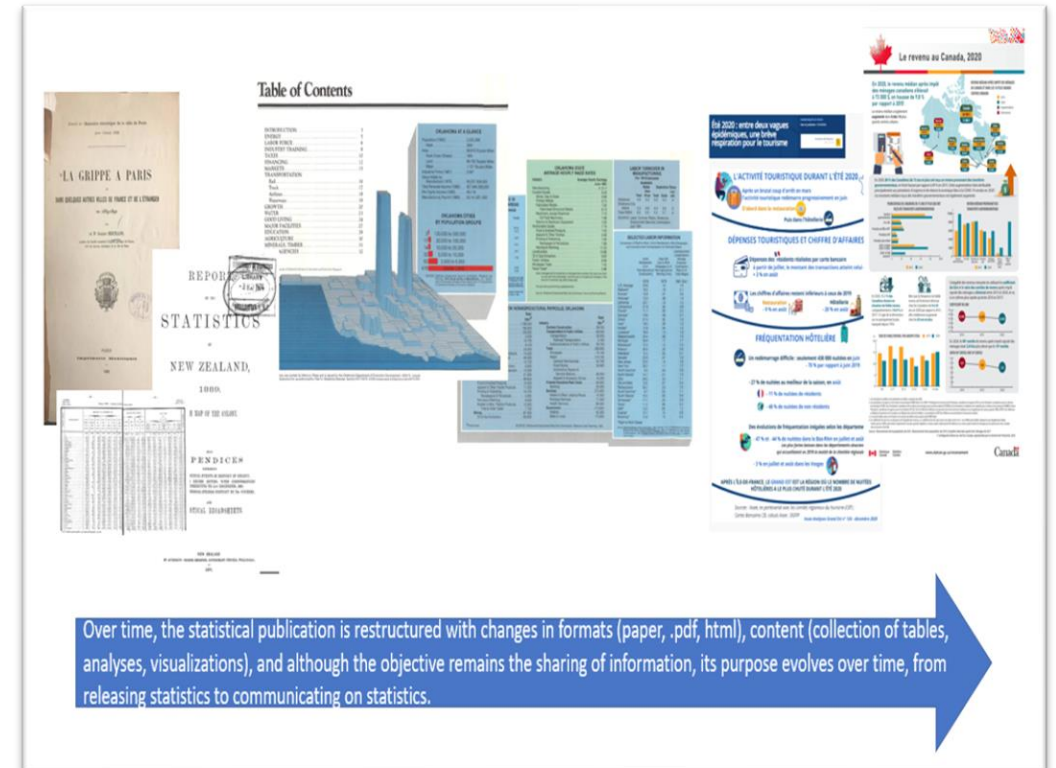


DISSEMINATION PROGRAM COMPONENTS (2/7)

A statistical bulletin with main results from the annual agricultural survey available.

producing large numbers of printed publications that are essentially a series of tables is declining and being replaced by online access to data

The recommendation is to move from a “classic” survey report of sometimes hundreds of pages to one or a set of “nutshell” documents that can inform and support debates on specific issues.



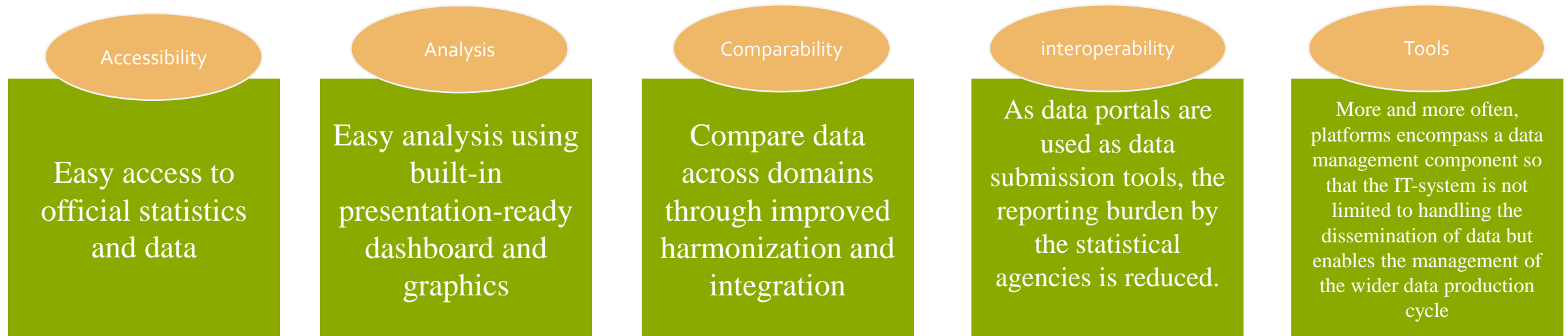
Over time, the statistical publication is restructured with changes in formats (paper, .pdf, html), content (collection of tables, analyses, visualizations), and although the objective remains the sharing of information, its purpose evolves over time, from releasing statistics to communicating on statistics.



DISSEMINATION PROGRAM COMPONENTS (3/7)

» INTERACTIVE STATISTICAL TABLES RELEASED ON A DATA PORTAL

A data portal is a web-based, interactive data and metadata platform with databases modelled for specific data types and domains. The IT-features data portals increasingly support offer many advantages such as:





DISSEMINATION PROGRAM COMPONENTS (4/7)

» INTERACTIVE STATISTICAL TABLES RELEASED ON A DATA PORTAL

The African Information Highway (AIH)

- Developed by the Statistics Department AfDB
- Is an example of such an NSS-wide system of data portals that uses SDMX as the common exchange and dissemination
- AIH is a network of live open data platforms (ODPs) electronically linking all African countries and 16 regional organizations

Benefits of using Open Data Portals

User Experience Improvement	Simplification of Internal Processes	Reduction of Workload
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of complex tables • Flexible analysis 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • simplification of internal processes • simplified tabulation plan 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • workload on data analysts is reduced. • complex or large numbers of tables in reports can be avoided



DISSEMINATION PROGRAM COMPONENTS (5/7)

» DISSEMINATION OF AGRICULTURAL SURVEY MICRODATA

- Microdata refers to unit-level data collected through a survey or interview or administrative systems.
- Microdata dissemination offers a foundation for more nuanced and multidimensional analysis,
- Aware of these benefits, FAO technical assistance programs such as the 50x2030 Initiative supports partner agencies in disseminating and promoting user access to these datasets.





DISSEMINATION PROGRAM COMPONENTS (6/7)

» DISSEMINATION OF AGRICULTURAL SURVEY MICRODATA

Key constituents of a microdata sharing program.

access policy

Statistical
Disclosure
Control

Metadata

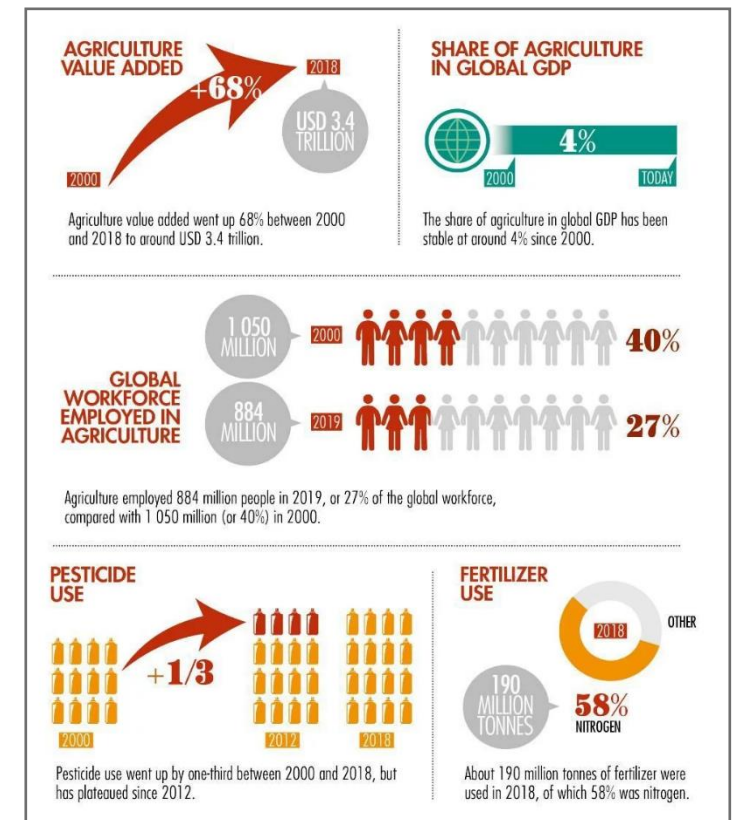
Microdata
catalogue



DISSEMINATION PROGRAM COMPONENTS (7/7)

» DATA HIGHLIGHTS

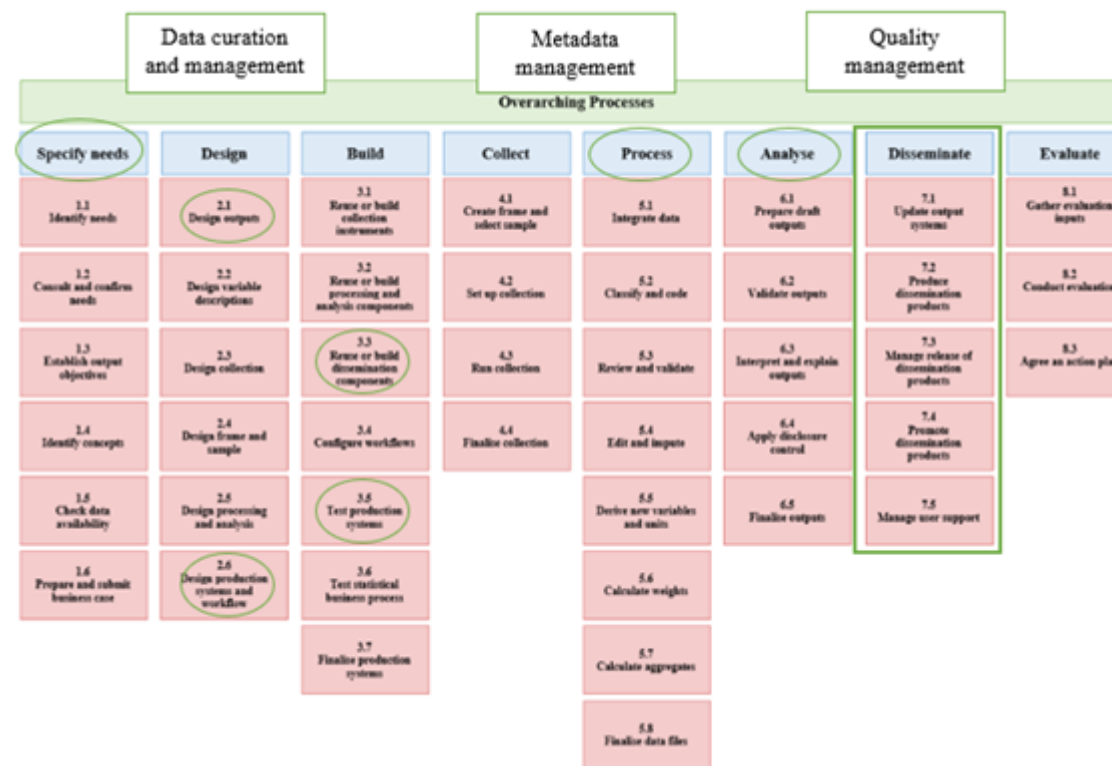
- for wide sharing through modern communication channels and the media.
- In today's context, an effective communication strategy, centered on highlighting key data points, is essential for the widespread sharing of statistical information
- As data plays an increasingly pivotal role in shaping narratives and policies, a well-orchestrated communication strategy becomes indispensable





A GSBPM-BASED APPROACH TO IMPLEMENTING DATA DISSEMINATION

- Dissemination activities occur in many sub-processes along the statistics production system
- Through the 50x2030 Initiative and the GSARS project, FAO promotes a GSBPM-based approach to implementing data dissemination



**GLOBAL STRATEGY
TO IMPROVE
AGRICULTURAL AND
RURAL STATISTICS**





Conclusion and recommendation

- Official statistics serve the crucial role of meeting the evolving and diverse information needs of various user categories.
- As these needs continually expand and diversify, it becomes imperative to cultivate and enhance a dissemination system
- The advancements in information technology provide statistical organizations with novel solutions to transition towards more versatile, interactive, impartial, timely, and cost-effective data releases,
- Adapting to these technological shifts is essential not only for maintaining relevance but also for maximizing the benefits of a more dynamic and accessible approach to data dissemination.

Thank you for your attention!

For further information, kindly
visit: <https://50x2030.org>

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