



Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations



CONCEPT NOTE

2024 Virtual Trainings

on

SDG indicator 2.4.1

**“Proportion of Agricultural Area under Productive
and Sustainable Agriculture”**

Version 4



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GOAL 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

Target 2.4

By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.

SDG Indicator 2.4.1

Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture

$$SDG2.4.1 = \frac{\text{Area under productive and sustainable agriculture}}{\text{Agricultural land area}}$$

Tier II

An internationally agreed methodology does exist; but very few data points are available

Context

In September 2015, countries adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This Agenda will shape their development programmes in a transformational way for the next 15 years. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 goals, adopted by all United Nations Member Countries, aimed at ensuring by 2030 a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable future for all. They call on all countries to act in a global partnership to end poverty and suffering, by adopting strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth while safeguarding the planet.

The successful achievement of the SDGs is closely associated with countries being able to address sustainable development in a holistic and comprehensive way across sectors, and in their capacity to monitor progress against targets set by the 2030 Agenda.

Each Goal includes targets and indicators. Targets embrace the specific conditions that must be satisfied in order to achieve the relevant Goal. SDG indicators, such as 2.4.1, are tools used to measure concrete progress towards the achievement of SDG targets. Countries are tasked with monitoring and reporting on transformational change by means of SDG indicators. As the basis for policy decisions, effective monitoring offers countries vital information to design more effective initiatives, programmes and projects to better address development needs. Agriculture and natural resource management are at the heart of this process and as such are featured across almost all of the SDGs.

FAO serves as custodian agency of 21 indicators, working closely with countries to develop their capacity on data collection and monitoring, especially as it pertains to sustainable food and agriculture. In particular, several indicators have been reclassified as Tier II, which means that they now have an internationally recognized methodology and are ready for data collection for the first time. This include farm-level data needed for monitoring SDG indicator 2.4.1 - Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture ([2.4.1 Agricultural sustainability |SDG Indicators Data Portal | Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations \(fao.org\)](#)).

The SDG indicator 2.4.1 is at the core of transformational change towards more sustainable and productive agriculture. The area under productive and sustainable agriculture captures the three dimensions of sustainable production: environmental, economic and social. The measurement instrument - farm surveys - will give countries the flexibility to identify priorities and challenges within the three dimensions of sustainability. Land under productive and sustainable agriculture will be those farms that satisfy indicators selected across all three dimensions.

Due to the worldwide impact of COVID-19 that has inhibited travel and thus in person trainings and workshops, FAO successfully trained virtually about 1216 national staff from 111 unique countries globally in the years 2020-2021-2022-2023, a vital investment in national statistical capacity to ensure the future of country reporting on sustainable agriculture.

FAO is now organizing other three virtual trainings to provide guidance on the SDG 2.4.1 methodology, data collection and reporting.

Objectives

The overall objective of this virtual training is to provide (government officials responsible for monitoring SDG indicator 2.4.1) capacity development on the methodology, data collection and analysis relevant to sustainable food and agriculture. Information will be provided on appropriate data collection instruments, namely farm surveys, including how to use these to provide the data needed for the SDG 2.4.1 sub-indicators and to identify the data gaps faced by countries.

More specifically, a 4 half-days virtual trainings will be organized between June and October 2024 to:

- Provide technical training to build capacity of the national staff on SDG indicator 2.4.1 farm survey-based methodology, data collection, compilation and interpretation
- Identify available national and sub-national farm level and other data useful to analyze sustainable food and agriculture
- Understand the data gaps
- Introduce the proxy indicator for interim reporting on SDG 2.4.1
- Discuss the country plans to collect data on the indicator in the short/medium/long term

The online trainings will be composed of participants from a group of countries and will offer an opportunity to share good practices and experiences. Furthermore, the trainings will provide

Participants are advised to take the SDG indicator 2.4.1 e-learning course (following this link <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=503> currently available in English, French and Spanish) *prior* to the virtual training to get familiar with the subject and terminologies. The e-learning course (2.5 hours duration) has been developed to facilitate understanding of the main concepts underpinning the methodology and to support countries in the analysis, data collection and reporting for SDG indicator 2.4.1.

Working language

The working language of the virtual training will be English, with possibly simultaneous translation in other UN languages.

Agenda

In total 3 virtual trainings will be organized for countries belonging to different regions, each training will be of a duration of 4 half-days, with two sessions per day of about 1 hour and 30 minutes each. The proposed tentative dates and group of countries are as follows:

Tentative Dates	Group of Countries	Progress
11-14 June	RAF	Done
2-5 July	RLC	Done
1-4 October	RNE and REU	Done

Exact timings will be establish in accordance with the time difference between Rome (Italy) and standard time of the respective region. Every day has to be considered as a commitment of about 3.5 hours, however, the general commitment is expected to be more.

The virtual training will be recorded.

Draft agenda

SDG indicator 2.4.1			
Day 1			
Session	Description	Presenter/ Facilitator	Time Slot (in minutes)
Opening	Welcome address / Introduction / Objectives of the training	FAO – Arbab Asfandiyar Khan and Stefania Bacci	15
Session 1	SDG 2.4.1: Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture	FAO – Arbab Asfandiyar Khan	35
Session 2	Sub-indicators in the economic dimension	FAO – Arbab Asfandiyar Khan	40
Break			30
Session 3	Sub-indicators in the economic dimension (cont.)	FAO – Arbab Asfandiyar Khan	85
Session 4	Q&A and Wrap-up	FAO – Arbab Asfandiyar Khan	5
Day 2			
Session 1	Sub-indicators in the environmental dimension	FAO – Arbab Asfandiyar Khan	90
Break			30
Session 2	Sub-indicators in social dimension	FAO – Arbab Asfandiyar Khan	85
Session 3	Q&A and Wrap-up	All	5
Day 3			
Session 1	SDG 2.4.1 in the context of 50x2030	FAO – Arbab Asfandiyar Khan	45
Session 2	SDG 2.4.1. Data collection tools (survey questionnaire and alternative data sources)	FAO – Arbab Asfandiyar Khan	30
Session 3	FAO SDG 2.4.1 Data collection questionnaire	FAO – Stefania Bacci	15
Break			30
Session 4	Data reporting to FAO (with focus on FAOSTAT)	FAO – Nathan Wanner	40
Session 5	Findings of the 2020-2023 dispatches of SDG 2.4.1 FAO data collection	FAO – Stefania Bacci	30
Session 6	FAO SDG 2.4.1 Country Case Studies	FAO – Arbab Asfandiyar Khan	15
Session 7	Q&A and Wrap-up	All	5
Day 4			

Session 1	Indicator 2.4.1 Short/Medium/Long term expectations	FAO – Arbab Asfandiyar Khan	40
Session 2	Practical steps on national adoption and implementation of SDG 2.4.1	FAO – Arbab Asfandiyar Khan	20
Session 3	SDG 2.4.1 Proxy Reporting	FAO – Nathan Wanner	30
Break			30
Session 4	Country Experience	Country	40
Session 5	Discussion on challenges in data collection and reporting on SDG indicator 2.4.1 and action plan to overcome it (cont.)	All	40
Session 6	Wrap-up, next steps, evaluation and closing (group photo)	FAO – Arbab Asfandiyar Khan and Stefania Bacci	10

Evaluations

When joining the first zoom session, participants will be requested to register. Moreover, during the training, four evaluation quizzes will be administered to assess if the participants adequately acquired knowledge transferred during the virtual training. The results of quizzes will be shared real time, though *anonymously* during the sessions with all participants.

Finally, at the end of the four days training, attendees will be requested to evaluate the course again anonymously by filling in an online evaluation form. This will help the SDG indicator 2.4.1 team improving the structure and organization of the course for future trainings.

Annex: Guiding steps for conducting the trainings:

This section summarizes the tools and processes that needs to be adopted to ensure a seamless experience during the virtual trainings.

a. Getting online

A good internet connection is needed for participating in the virtual training. The online presence is for about 3.5 hours per day, which means that a large quantity of internet data (Megabytes) will be used. Participants that don't have an unlimited internet package, should check before and after each session the available Megabytes to ensure that it covers the training sessions.

In case the participants have video quality issues, the following actions are recommended:

- Close other applications that use the internet, especially those that play music or video.
- Cancel any file transfers in progress.
- If the above fails to resolve the issue, participants may need to increase the bandwidth. In this case they need to contact their Internet Service Provider (ISP) to get more information regarding the download and upload speeds and make request to the ISP accordingly.

It is strongly suggested:

- To use a PC/laptop instead of the mobile phone/Ipad/tablet for the virtual training as theoretical sessions could be complicated/heavy to follow on handheld devices.
- That participants are well settled, comfortable and with a clear vision of the monitor/screen.
- Have a USB headset with microphone and earphones.
- Have a webcam, one that is built-in to the computer or that connects to the computer via USB.

b. Communication application (Zoom)

The virtual training will be organized using the Zoom software program (<https://zoom.us>). Briefly, Zoom is a videoconferencing software program compatible with Windows, macOS, iOS, Android, and Linux. It is noted for its simple interface and usability, specifically for non-tech people. Features include one-on-one meetings, group video conferences, screen sharing, plugins, browser extensions, and the ability to record meetings and have them automatically transcribed. Participants do not have to download the app if they are using Google Chrome or Firefox as they can click on a link and join from the browser directly. Note that Zoom is not compatible with Safari for Macs.

Zoom can be downloaded for free following this link <https://zoom.us/download>.

System Requirements

- An internet connection: Broadband wired or wireless (3G or 4G/LTE). The minimum bandwidth required is 600kbps (up/down), however, the recommended one is 1.5 Mbps (up/down). Participants can check their Internet bandwidth using the speed test available at this link <https://www.speedtest.net>.

- A microphone – one that is built-in to the computer or a USB plug-in or wireless Bluetooth.
- Built-in headset jack for laptop or desktop. Even if the laptop or desktop has speakers, participants are suggested to plug in thier headset so that the sound from the speakers does not cause an echo in the Zoom meeting. Any headset with a 3.5mm plug can be used.

Supporting Videos

- A 1 minute video that shows “how to join the meeting”:

https://www.youtube.com/embed/hlkCmbvAHQQ?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc_load_policy=1

- A 10 minutes video that shows the meeting controls (both for guests and host):

https://www.youtube.com/embed/ygZ96J_z4AY?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc_load_policy=1

Be informed that FAO will be recording the training for potential future use. If participants have issues in showing their visage, they are requested to turn off the camera and inform the SDG indicator 2.4.1 team in advance.

General Rules

- Participants must settle themselves in a silent room/environment. Virtual meetings with several participants often result in noise issues that disturbs the trainer and/or whomever is trying to talk.
- Participants must mute themselves, always! and are asked to raise the hand virtually when and if they want to talk.
- Sessions will be interspersed with breaks (30 min every about hour and 30 minutes).