



ENHANCING NATIONAL STATISTICAL SYSTEMS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

In 2015, world leaders adopted two important global initiatives to support sustainable development and international cooperation: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), with its 17 universal and global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (Addis Agenda). In agriculture, as in other sectors, the SDGs represent a broad, ambitious, and multidimensional programme of action. They place new demands on governments in all countries to improve coordination with global partners and with other sectors of society to deliver more effective policies and programmes, cutting across sectors and responding to complex economic, social, and environmental challenges. In order to address these growing demands, the project focused on rectifying the critical challenges of agriculture data scarcity, high costs, inaccessibility, low quality, low disaggregation, and low comparability that have long impeded effective agricultural programming and policy.



WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

Overall, the technical capacities of the beneficiary countries were successfully enhanced at national and regional levels. The project worked with these countries to obtain high-quality data on a wide range of agricultural dimensions, including technical, economic, environmental, and social ones. For example, the scope of agricultural surveys was increased through the adoption of rotating thematic modules. As a result, data now go beyond the classical (crop and livestock) production and productivity measures typically covered in agricultural surveys, enabling countries to monitor and report effectively on a number of SDG indicators. The creation of new codes on food security and food safety proved to be a real game changer, as these are essential for monitoring resource flows and tracking aid expenditures and activities related to SDG 2 (Zero hunger). In terms of capacity development, numerous workshops, missions and training sessions were organized, strengthening national institutions' capacities to collect, validate, analyse and disseminate information on agriculture, food security and nutrition. Another key achievement of the project was the enhanced use of modern technology, comprising the introduction/improvement of computer-based interviewing techniques, among others. An important new tool, the Food and Agriculture Microdata (FAM) catalogue, was developed to catalogue and make accessible microdata files, and related documents, containing information related to agriculture and the rural sector, food security and nutrition. The catalogue has been widely adopted by various users.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget
USD 10 666 280

Duration
November 2016 – June 2022

Resource Partner
Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Partners
Arab Organization for Agricultural Development (AOAD); Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO); International Aid Transparency Initiative (IATI); Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD); Permanent Interstate Committee for Drought Control in the Sahel (CILSS); Pacific Community (SPC); Southern African Development Community (SADC); Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA); United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA); United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA); United States Agency for International Development (USAID); World Bank (WB); World Food Programme (WFP)

Beneficiaries
Producers and users (policy-makers, civil society, international community) of agricultural statistics at country level

IMPACT

Sound statistical methodologies were introduced, and the regularity and timeliness of agricultural data production and dissemination were improved in several beneficiary countries. This will help governments to better analyse and understand the impacts of agricultural policies, assess progress towards the SDGs and other goals, and shape better policies and programmes, thereby assisting them towards the achievement of sustainable productivity, income, gender and nutrition goals.



ACTIVITIES

- Open and linked versions of agricultural investment vocabularies created, using Resource Description Framework (RDF) and associated tools and services already available.
- Open Agriculture Investment Data Community of Interest (CoI) established, comprising network of people and organizations with different levels of involvement and partnership.
- Caliper platform developed to modernize statistical classifications, consisting of suite of pre-existing; open-source tools, used and adapted to serve the purposes of the project.
- Statistical methodology produced for establishing official development assistance (ODA) coefficient for FAO, applicable to all United Nations agencies.
- Global and regional advocacy for greater access to agricultural data through improved dissemination programmes by statistical agencies; including targeted regional online seminars and/or training sessions on “Opening Access to Agricultural Survey Microdata” organized for countries in Africa, Latin America, and Caribbean and Pacific Islands.
- Agricultural Integrated Survey Programme (AGRISurvey) programme developed to address critical data gaps in agriculture, and implemented by seven countries (Armenia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Nepal and Uruguay).
- Modern survey technologies introduced, such as Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) and Global Positioning System (GPS) solutions, for greater efficiency in data capture and better data consistency.
- Global Rural and Agricultural Integrated Surveys (GRAINS) governance set up, comprising number of targeted activities.
- Technical assistance and training provided to national statistical institutions in improving data production models in agricultural domain.
- Technical assistance and training provided to national statistical institutions in improving data dissemination programmes, including opening up access to agricultural survey microdata to enable more granular-level analysis.
- Technical advisers deployed to promote adoption of Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU) and Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) methodologies at country level, and two e-learning courses organized for this purpose.



Project Title
CROSS-CUTTING: Targeted support for agricultural statistical innovation at FAO

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