

2021 Call for Proposals

Release date: 15 February 2021



The 50x2030 Initiative to Close the Agricultural Data Gap invites local researchers from Cambodia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Senegal, and Uganda to submit proposals for grants to conduct novel research projects that use survey data generated under the Initiative. In countries where survey datasets are not available under Agricultural Integrated Survey (AGRISurvey) or Living Standards Measurement Study-Integrated Surveys on Agriculture (LSMS-ISA), the two models that inform the 50x2030 surveys, national agricultural surveys that were supported by AGRISurvey or LSMS-ISA can be used. Successful proposals will identify and answer questions that are useful for policymaking, program (re)design, or investment decisions in agriculture and food security.

The range for grants is \$1000-\$10,000 USD per project, inclusive of indirect costs. The Initiative will award up to \$130,000 total for this grant competition.

Applications will be accepted and reviewed on a rolling basis beginning **15 February 2021**. Awards will be made to winning proposals, also on a rolling basis, after that date until the total \$130,000 funds are exhausted.

Context

The [50x2030 Initiative to Close the Agricultural Data Gap](#) seeks to transform country data systems across 50 countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America and make evidence-informed decision-making in agriculture the norm in those regions by 2030. Specifically, the Initiative scales up and builds upon the experience of FAO's AGRISurvey Programme and the World Bank's Living Standards Measurement Study-Integrated Surveys on Agriculture to support the governments of 50 countries to build robust survey systems. The Initiative, which became operational in July 2019, is a partnership between the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the World Bank, and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). Implementation is coordinated by a Program Management Team (PMT) that sits within the World Bank and is organized under three Implementation Components: (i) Data Production, led by FAO; (ii) Methods and Tools Development, led by the World Bank; and (iii) Data Use, led by IFAD. For more general information on the Initiative, please see [An Introduction to the 50x2030 Initiative to Close the Agricultural Data Gap](#).

The 50x2030 Initiative's main objective is "increased and sustained evidence-based decision-making in agriculture, particularly to help achieve SDG2". To reach that objective, the 50x2030 Data Use component supports activities to promote and encourage stakeholders to use survey data in more and better ways across partner countries. The Data Use component's approach centers around improving the factors that enable data use to build a healthy data ecosystem. The 50x2030 Initiative supports partner countries to implement activities to improve data use in the ecosystem by improving data policies and practices, building needed capacities, and improving the relationships between data producers, intermediaries (researchers and analysts), and the ultimate decision-makers who use the data. For more information on how the Initiative is promoting data use, see its [Guide to Promoting Data Use under the 50x2030 Initiative](#). (Also available in French on [this web page](#).)

Overview of the 50x2030 Data Use Grant Competition for 2021

As part of its program to promote the use of 50x2030 survey data, the Data Use component (managed by IFAD) is supporting a set of research grants to local researchers in five of the 50x2030 countries: Cambodia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Senegal, and Uganda. In those countries, the 50x2030 Initiative will provide competitive grants for novel research projects that use 50x2030 data to generate

a practical research output that can be applied by decision-makers for policymaking, program (re)design, or investment decisions.

Research proposals must demonstrate relevance to national policy or investment priorities for the public or private sector by citing documentation. Proposals should provide a rationale of how the research outputs could translate to improved decision-making and how dissemination plans will promote the application of the research outputs to the broadest extent possible. Examples might include:

- A research project that uses microdata sets from the Uganda National Panel Survey (2010 – 2019) and Annual Agricultural Survey (2019) to examine changes in youth employment in the agricultural value chains of coffee and maize from 2010 to 2019. This research will provide insights to support the implementation of Uganda's [National Development Plan](#) (2016-2020), [National Youth Policy](#) (2016), and [National Strategy for Youth Employment in Agriculture](#) (2017) as well as to assess progress toward the [Malabo Declaration](#) commitment to create job opportunities for youth in agricultural value chains.
- A research project that analyzes the 2019 Cambodian Intercensal Agricultural Survey microdata sets to examine the use of vaccinations based on the types of livestock and poultry raised as well as the size of the herd/flock and the sex of the household head. This research will provide insights into the effectiveness of [Cambodia's National Strategic Development Plan](#) (2019-2023), which aims to promote animal health and production.

To ensure these grants adequately benefit both the public and private sector in these countries, the grant competition has two tracks, a Government Track and Non-governmental Track. The [Government Track](#) encourages applications from agencies across the government for any novel or exploratory research work not already planned and budgeted. This track is subject to the laws and agreement of the government to permit this type of funding and will only cover non-salary staff costs (e.g. equipment, software licenses, hiring of non-staff consultants, etc.) in accordance with IFAD and World Bank procurement rules. The [Non-governmental Track](#) covers applicants from local academic research institutes, universities, firms, or other civil society organizations (CSOs). The Initiative will seek to award at least one grant in each of the two tracks in each of the five countries if sufficient, high-quality proposals are received.

The ultimate purpose of the grant activity is to facilitate the building of evidence-informed policies for rural development and food security through promoting awareness and use of 50x2030 survey data among national and global stakeholders. Therefore, the 50x2030 Initiative is placing a significant emphasis on the planned dissemination and communication strategy for the research outputs. The target audience for the research outputs produced through the grants is both national and global, although with an emphasis on the former. Each proposal must identify how the researchers will share and promote their research products and findings at the local and national levels. In addition, the researchers are expected to participate in and present at national events which may be held as part of the 50x2030 Initiative. At the global level, the research funded under the grant competition will feed into a large-scale virtual event and a written publication to showcase the findings and research outputs in November 2021. The publication will be published by the 50x2030 Initiative.

Eligibility

Researchers or groups of researchers living and working in one of the five countries where 50x2030 Data Use activities have begun: Cambodia, Ethiopia, Georgia, Senegal, and Uganda. These Grants are only available to local researchers. Researchers affiliated with international or foreign organizations should only apply if they are citizens of or residents living in of one of the five countries and using data on those countries. Independent researchers not affiliated with a research-focused organization are also encouraged to apply.

The grant competition has two tracks, a Government Track and Non-governmental Track, to ensure these grants adequately benefit both the public and private sector in these countries. The

Government Track encourages applications from agencies across the government (e.g. ministries of agriculture, environment, natural resources; a national agricultural research center, etc.) for any novel or exploratory research work not already planned and budgeted. This track is subject to the agreement by the government to permit this type of funding. The Initiative expects applicants to follow the laws and rules of their country related to accepting this funding. The Non-governmental Track encourages applicants from local academic research institutes, universities, businesses, firms, or other CSOs. The Initiative will seek to award at least one grant in each of the two tracks in each of the five countries if sufficient, high-quality proposals are received.

Required Data Sets

For more information, consult the Data Guidebook [available on the competition announcement web page](#).

Country	Data Sources/Survey Names	Year(s)	Country Profiles (LSMS-ISA/AGRISurvey)	National Implementer(s)
Cambodia	Cambodia Inter-Censal Agricultural Survey (CIAS) <i>also referred to as AGRISurvey</i>	-2019	Cambodia AGRISurvey webpage	- National Institute of Statistics (NIS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CIAS survey results (in EN & KH) • Microdata [to be released in April 2021]
Ethiopia	Ethiopia Socio-economic Surveys (ESS) <i>also referred to as LSMS-ISA</i>	-2011/12 -2013/14 -2015/16 -2018/19	Ethiopia LSMS-ISA webpage	- Central Statistics Agency of Ethiopia (CSA)
	High Frequency Phone Survey (HFPS) <i>supported by LSMS-ISA</i>	-2020/21	Ethiopia HFPS webpage	- Laterite BV (survey firm) -CSA
Georgia	Survey of Agricultural Holdings <i>also referred to as AGRISurvey</i>	Quarterly & Annual Year— 2019 & 2020	Georgia AGRISurvey webpage	- National Statistics Office of Georgia (GEOSTAT)
Senegal	Enquete Agricole Annuelle (EAA) <i>also referred to as AGRISurvey</i>	-2017/18 -2018/19 -2019/20	Senegal AGRISurvey webpage	- Direction de l'Analyse, de la Prévision et des Statistiques Agricoles (DAPSA) - Agence Nationale de la Statistique et de la Démographie (ANSD) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EAA 2017/18 documentation • EAA 2018/19 documentation • EAA 2019/20 report • Multidimensional tables

Country	Data Sources/Survey Names	Year(s)	Country Profiles (LSMS-ISA/AGRISurvey)	National Implementer(s)
Uganda	Annual Agricultural Survey (AAS) <i>also referred to as AGRISurvey</i>	-2018/19 -2019/20	Uganda AGRISurvey webpage	-Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBoS) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AAS 2018 full report • AAS 2018 annex Excel tables • AAS 2018 multidimensional tables • AAS 2018 statistical release • AAS 2018 survey questionnaires • AAS 2018 microdata
	Uganda National Panel Surveys (UNPS) <i>also referred to as LSMS-ISA</i>	-2009/10 -2010/11 -2011/12 -2013/14 -2015/16 -2018/19	Uganda LSMS-ISA webpage	-Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBoS)
	High Frequency Phone Survey (HFPS) <i>supported by LSMS-ISA</i>	-2020-2021	Uganda HFPS webpage	

Evaluation Process and Scoring

The 50x2030 Data Use team will perform an initial screen for eligibility and then complete a rigorous review, scoring each eligible proposal based on the criteria specified below. Reviewers will keep track of scores and comments to propose final funding decisions and provide responses to applicants. All proposals will be categorized as either: (1) partially or fully funded; (2) revise and resubmit; (3) not approved.

Successful applications will include the following information:

1. Clear research questions or problem statement to address a gap in knowledge linked to the stated objectives of the 50x2030 Initiative and the country's policies, programs, and investments,
2. Documentation on how the research would inform practical policy, programmatic, or investment decisions in the country's agricultural sector, rural development and/or food security,
3. A description of national data sets it will use, both 50x2030 data sets and others,
4. The analysis methods to be used,
5. The target audience for the research in a manner consistent with the stated objectives of the 50x2030 Initiative,
6. A timeline to complete the research by September 2021,
7. A dissemination and communication strategy to promote the research output, and
8. A clear, detailed, and justifiable budget within the range of \$1000 - \$10,000 USD.

Proposals will be judged on five criteria: 1) alignment with the 50x2030 Initiative's objective of promoting the use of data for decision-making as relates to SDG2 and national agricultural, rural, or food security priorities; 2) the novelty and innovativeness of the proposed research; 3) the soundness of the proposed methodology, research process, proposed research team, and timeline; 4) the comprehensiveness and effectiveness of the dissemination and communication strategy for the research output(s); and 5) the soundness of the proposed budget and clarity of the budget justification. For each criterion, reviewers will assign a score from 1 (very poor) to 10 (excellent) and will provide justification for the overall score.

How to Apply

Researchers should submit applications and any inquiries to c.keramati@ifad.org. Applications will be considered as they are proposed starting on 15 February 2021, but continuing after this date on a first come basis. Completed applications should be submitted as a PDF that includes:

1. a filled-out cover form [available on the competition announcement web page](#);
2. the research project proposal (no more than five pages),
3. the research project budget,
4. a curriculum vitae for each of the researchers proposed under the project.

Timeline and Deadlines

1. The IFAD Data Use team circulates the Call for Proposals on 15 February 2021 on behalf of the 50x2030 Initiative.
2. Researchers should submit completed applications as soon as possible (funds are given to relevant proposals on a rolling basis until exhausted).
3. 50x2030 Initiative reviews proposals and notifies winners on a rolling basis after 15 February 2021.
4. Upon receipt of the award, researchers will conduct projects until 30 September 2021.
5. Researchers will provide progress reports on their projects to 50x2030 by 31 July 2021.
6. Researchers will submit draft findings/results to 50x2030 for review by 30 September 2021.
7. Researchers will work with 50x2030 to develop final research outputs for virtual conference and written publication from 30 September 2021 to 1 November 2021.
8. The first annual 50x2030 Global Data Use Conference will be held in November 2021 to showcase the research projects.