

## 50x2030 KEY PRINCIPLES FOR ADOPTION OF PARTNER COUNTRIES



“Country commitment” means countries demonstrate efforts to prioritize agricultural statistics (eg. Inclusion of agricultural statistics in National Strategy for the Development of Statistics, NSDS), availability of SPARS or willingness to prepare one, agree to co-finance and take over funding and technical oversight of survey program in a multi-year period, agreement to produce required SDG indicators and required sex-disaggregated data, and agree to adopt basic practices on data dissemination and open data.

The following eight (8) key principles guide the activities of the 50x2030 Initiative, with the aim of efficiently and effectively achieving the objectives of the Initiative:

- Development objective: Contributing to increased food security, improved nutrition, less hunger, sustainable agriculture in support of Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2).
- Program objectives: increased and sustained evidence-based decision-making in support of national, regional and global development frameworks; partner countries produce and disseminate more, high quality, timelier and more disaggregated agricultural and rural survey data.

Countries are expected to adopt the following interrelated principles that are universal to the 50x2030 Initiative, from survey design to data collection and data use:

**1. Data Quality** – The basic underlying principle of the 50x2030 initiative is data quality. Since low quality data may result in insufficient or incorrect policy guidance, high-quality data is of utmost importance. The quality of survey data depends on questionnaire design, sample selection, implementation methods, and other facets of the survey process. The 50x2030 questionnaire instruments have been designed based on existing methodological evidence and previously tested instruments to minimize bias from questionnaire design. Guidance on sample design and selection is provided to address potential quality limitations resulting from sampling. Most importantly, capacity building for staff in national statistical systems is prioritized in the 50x2030 Initiative in order to enhance quality across all phases of the survey process.

**2. Cost-Effectiveness** – The Initiative is designed with consideration for the heavy burden faced by national statistical systems. The need for comprehensive, high-quality data to inform national policies is balanced with the practical need for cost-effective implementation. To maximize cost-effectiveness, the 50x2030 questionnaire instruments have been designed to collect data at the necessary level for ensuring the quality of data is high, and not overly disaggregated, while also emphasizing the rotation of questionnaire topics over time so as to not collect data more frequently than necessary. Optional extensions are made available for countries that are able to invest more in high quality data for certain topics (e.g., objective yield measurement).

**3. Data Disaggregation** – The Initiative is committed to supporting the collection of adequately disaggregated and high-quality microdata. A special focus is disaggregation by gender, including of the Initiative’s priority SDG indicators, to inform policy to foster gender equality. The 50x2030 survey tools are designed to enable reporting and analysis of rights to and ownership of land, and financial and physical assets, as well as intra-household decision making and control over production and use of income.

**4. Comprehensive Coverage of Agricultural Producers** – The 50x2030 Initiative provides a comprehensive view of the country’s agricultural activities. It is designed to cover crop and livestock activities for both the household sector and the non-household sector, as well as fishery and forestry activities for those involved in crop or livestock production. The Initiative defines *agricultural holding* in line with the definition put forth by the FAO World Programme for the Census of Agriculture (WCA) 2020 (FAO, 2015). Consistent with this, the target population comprises small, medium and large holdings in the household sector as well as all holdings in the non-household sector such as those managed by corporations, cooperatives, government institutions, etc. The sampling frame(s)

and sample design ensure such coverage. In addition to capturing the full range of crop and livestock producers<sup>1</sup>, 50x2030 collects data for all relevant crops and livestock types for the given context, not only the primary products.

**5. Integration** – A guiding principle of the 50x2030 Initiative is integration: of agricultural data collection for both the household and non-household sectors; socio-economic data with agricultural data; agricultural and non-agricultural households; and survey data with other data sources. The resulting data goes beyond the production of traditional agricultural statistics. It allows for (i) the analysis of drivers of productivity and (ii) the interaction of socio-economic characteristics of the rural population, agricultural production methods, off-farm activities, and the environment with agricultural activities, amongst others. Ultimately, integration of survey samples and topics of data collection allows for agricultural and rural analyses, increasing the value of agricultural data exponentially beyond basic production indicators.

**6. Sustainability** – The Initiative is designed to support a long-term survey program, with data collection taking place year after year and continuous capacity building. The survey is envisioned to be integrated into a partner country's national statistical program, rather than a standalone effort. This includes progressive financial take over by partner countries as well as development and maintenance of staff capacity in national statistical systems.

**7. Innovation** – Related to the principles of cost-effectiveness and data quality, the 50x2030 Initiative strives to make use of technological and methodological innovations that improve the quality of agricultural survey data while ensuring implementation is feasible. The Methods and Tools Development component of the Initiative is tasked with validating improved methods of data collection. Validated methods that have been shown to be scalable to national level surveys have been integrated into the design of the 50x2030 questionnaire instruments, which will continue to evolve as new technologies are developed and validated.

**8. Open Data and Dissemination** – Special attention is given to access to and use of the data collected under the 50x2030 Initiative. Open access to the anonymized microdata and related documentation, a key principle of the Initiative, maximizes the use and value of the data. Additionally, preparation of tabulation plans and construction of a calendar of dissemination and analytical products (bulletins, reports, etc.) as part of the survey preparation phase, coupled with technical capacity building, supports national statistical systems in delivering agricultural indicators and other products in a timely manner, to best inform national policy. Given the importance of open data, dissemination, and data usage, a component of the 50x2030 Initiative is dedicated to Data Use.

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<sup>1</sup> The 50x2030 system is not designed to capture nomadic farming. Nomadic farming is a specific case which requires an appropriate stand-alone survey, such as that described in GSARS (2016a).