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50x2030
DATA-SMART AGRICULTURE

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THE **50x2030** INITIATIVE BRINGS TOGETHER COMMITTED PARTNERS TO BRIDGE THE AGRICULTURAL DATA GAP.

BRIDGING THE AGRICULTURAL DATA GAP

Good decisions are fundamental for sustainable agricultural growth and enhanced food security and nutrition. Yet, decisions can only be as good as the evidence that informs them. The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) estimates that in the 2015-17 period 264 billion US$ per year were invested in agriculture each year in low-income and lower middle-income countries (L/LMICs), with 80 percent coming from the private sector and the rest from governments and development organizations.

Governments and businesses, including small-holder producers, often make critical policy and investment decisions, without the benefit of quality agricultural data. The lack and limited use of data lead to sub-optimal outcomes, losses in productivity, shortfalls in agricultural income and, ultimately, more hunger and poverty.

Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2) — to promote sustainable agriculture, end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition — is a powerful call for action to address the data problem in agriculture. In Africa, the Malabo Declaration commitment to the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) provides a similar call. The message is clear: accurate and frequent data are necessary to track and build upon progress to alleviate poverty and hunger. Bridging the agricultural data gap in a sustainable way is a critical precondition for evidence-based decision-making and the investments needed to foster agricultural development and achieve SDG2.

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GOOD DECISIONS ARE FUNDAMENTAL FOR SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURAL GROWTH AND ENHANCED FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION. YET, DECISIONS CAN ONLY BE AS GOOD AS THE EVIDENCE THAT INFORMS THEM.

2 ZERO HUNGER

MOST LOW-INCOME AND LOWER MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES CANNOT PRODUCE THREE CRITICAL SDG2 INDICATORS THAT SHOULD BE MEASURED THROUGH AN AGRICULTURAL SURVEY:

2.3.1 *Labor productivity*

2.3.2 *Small-holder income*

2.4.1 *Land under productive and sustainable agriculture*

A PARTNERSHIP FOR DATA-SMART AGRICULTURE

The 50x2030 Initiative brings together committed partners in agricultural development to solve the problem of the agricultural data gap. Led by a Program Management Team within the World Bank's Development Data Group, 50x2030 brings together the technical and operational capabilities of key multilateral implementers, with the strategic influence, vision, and resources of development agencies and the determination and hard work of partner countries, creating a powerful alliance that can realize the ambition of the Initiative.

The Initiative will scale up and build upon the experiences of FAO's Agricultural Integrated Survey (AGRISurvey) Programme and the World Bank's Living Standards Measurement Study-Integrated Surveys on Agriculture (LSMS-ISA), to empower and support 50 L/LMICs to build strong national data systems that produce and use high-quality and timely agricultural and rural survey data.

This effort will be complemented by the experience of the International Fund for Agriculture Development (IFAD), Research and Impact Assessment Division (RIA) in increasing and improving the use of survey data to inform decision-making. This will pave the way for agriculture's newest revolution: data-smart agriculture. The Initiative will create stronger capacity to produce, analyze, interpret, and apply data to decisions in the agricultural sector. The vision of the Initiative is a world where by 2030, good agricultural data and data-smart decisions will be the new norm for L/LMICs. The commitment of 50x2030 partners will serve as a catalyst to enable the true agents of change — country governments, businesses, smallholders, and civil society — to transform agriculture through evidence-based policies and investments.

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FLEXIBLE TOOLS FOR VARYING COUNTRY NEEDS

The 50x2030 Initiative is based on two survey models that are integrated into national data systems to address SDG2 data needs. Countries can choose to implement either an **agricultural survey program** or an **integrated agricultural and rural survey program**, depending on their respective needs, wishes, capacity, and potential for technical and financial take-over. FAO will lead the data-production component through technical assistance and capacity building activities.

The agricultural survey program

The agricultural survey program is designed to provide complete, fully representative data on agriculture from both household and non-household (commercial) farms over a 10-year cycle. It has a modular approach that joins an annual core module and several periodic rotating modules that cover critical topics such as agricultural income, labor and farm practices and the environment. Its flexible modular approach creates a survey system that can respond to emerging demands at regional, national, or international levels.

FIGURE 1. *An example of an Agricultural Survey Program*

Years	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Core Agricultural Module	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Income, Labor, and Productivity	■			■			■			
Production Methods and Environment		■			■			■		
Machinery, Equipment, and Assets			■			■			■	

The integrated agricultural and rural survey program

The integrated agricultural and rural survey program will combine a farm-based agricultural survey program with a household-based rural socioeconomic survey program. Within a country's statistical system, an integrated approach is ideal as it produces more data, increased data interoperability, and greater cost efficiencies. As with the agricultural program, the integrated program collects data from a representative sample of farms —household and non-household — covering the same set of key agricultural topics. In addition, the integrated program captures socioeconomic and demographic data, for example on income, education, employment, and food security and includes a sample of rural non-agricultural households.

FIGURE 2. *An example of an Integrated Agricultural and Rural Survey program*										
Years	**1**	**2**	**3**	**4**	**5**	**6**	**7**	**8**	**9**	**10**
Core Agricultural Module	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Income, Labor, and Productivity	■			■			■			
Production Methods and Environment		■			■			■		
Machinery, Equipment, and Assets			■			■			■	
Income and Living Standards - Household	■			■			■			

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ADVANCE KNOWLEDGE FOR DATA THAT ARE ACCURATE, RELIABLE, AND TIMELY

Alongside these survey programs, the 50x2030 Initiative will prioritize critical methodological research for agricultural and rural surveys to produce more efficient and cost-effective tools. In particular, the Initiative will develop and document methodological solutions for the efficient implementation of its modular survey systems.

An active, applied survey research program will develop, test and disseminate new data collection approaches emphasizing the integration of sensors and modern technologies for objective and cost-effective data collection. Efforts will also be devoted to exploring obstacles to and developing solutions for the integration of survey data with different data sources, including but not limited to, census, geospatial and administrative data, with an eye to enhancing the value of survey data in policy-relevant analysis and research.

The World Bank's Center for Development Data (C4D2) will lead on methods development.

AGRICULTURAL DATA FOR ALL

To make its solutions last, the Initiative prioritizes two key tenets often overlooked in data-collection projects: 1) ensuring the data are used and 2) building country ownership. A commitment to use agricultural data in policymaking, cost-sharing, and program take-over is a fundamental requirement for countries wishing to join the Initiative.

50x2030 also strives to build the capacity and motivation of decisionmakers to use data, to strengthen data producers to align with decisionmaker needs, and to improve data sharing and open data. The inclusion of a data use objective recognizes that supply-side efforts focused on data production alone are unlikely to increase the use of evidence in decision-making. Within the Initiative, data-use activities will be designed and implemented by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), a clear fit given IFAD's strategic role in policy engagement and building evidence and knowledge to promote sustainable rural transformation in partner countries.
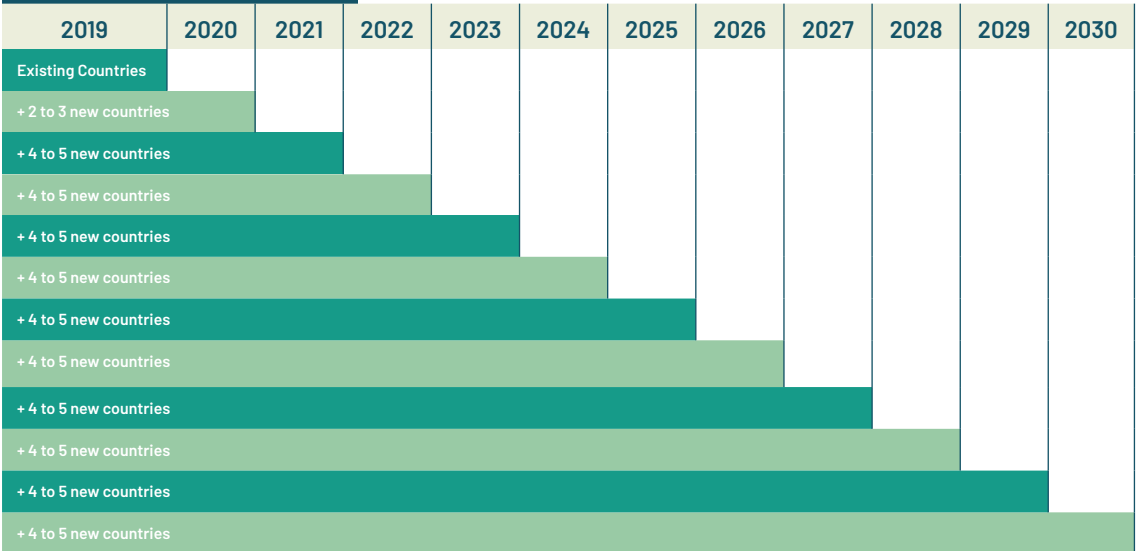
BRIDGING THE DATA GAP IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY

Country demand and leadership are prerequisites for country participation. The partner government is in the driver's seat and leads the design and implementation of the program with technical support from FAO, IFAD, and the World Bank. From the start partner countries will be required to contribute resources to their chosen survey programs and to increase their contributions each year, with the objective of assuming full financial and technical responsibility for the survey programs in five to eight years.

FIGURE 3. *Illustrative Country Roll-out*

	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030
Existing Countries	■											
+ 2 to 3 new countries	■	■										
+ 4 to 5 new countries	■	■	■									
+ 4 to 5 new countries	■	■	■	■								
+ 4 to 5 new countries	■	■	■	■	■							
+ 4 to 5 new countries	■	■	■	■	■	■						
+ 4 to 5 new countries	■	■	■	■	■	■	■					
+ 4 to 5 new countries	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■				
+ 4 to 5 new countries	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
+ 4 to 5 new countries	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■		
+ 4 to 5 new countries	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	
+ 4 to 5 new countries	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

![50x2030 DATA-SMART AGRICULTURE]

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

IFAD — Investing in rural people

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Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Australian Government

Cooperazione Italiana allo Sviluppo
Ministero degli Affari Esteri e della Cooperazione Internazionale

A NEW GLOBAL LANDSCAPE FOR AGRICULTURAL DATA AND DECISIONMAKING

THE 50X2030 INITIATIVE WILL TRANSFORM THE AGRICULTURAL DATA SYSTEMS OF 50 COUNTRIES ACROSS AFRICA, THE MIDDLE EAST, ASIA, AND LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN BY 2030. THIS BROAD, GLOBAL ENDEAVOR WILL RESHAPE THE LANDSCAPE OF AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS AND EVIDENCE-BASED DECISION-MAKING IN AGRICULTURE, MOVING THE WORLD TOWARD ZERO HUNGER, GLOBAL FOOD SECURITY, IMPROVED NUTRITION, AND SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE.

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