50x2030
DATA-SMART AGRICULTURE

THE 50x2030 INITIATIVE

BRINGING TOGETHER COMMITTED PARTNERS TO FILL THE AGRICULTURAL DATA GAP

WHY 50x2030?

According to latest estimates, US$264 billion are invested annually in agriculture in low- and lower middle-income countries, often without the benefit of accurate, up-to-date data.

Governments and businesses, including smallholder producers, are often "shooting in the dark," making critical policy and investment decisions without the benefit of quality agricultural data. The lack and limited use of data lead to suboptimal outcomes, losses in productivity, weaker food systems, shortfalls in agricultural income and, ultimately, more hunger and poverty. This situation has only been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, which has created further operational challenges for national statistical offices due to funding constraints.

It is of this need that the 50x2030 Initiative to Close the Agricultural Data Gap was born.

Decisions can only be as good as the evidence that informs them

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A partnership for data-smart agriculture

WHAT WE DO

The 50x2030 Initiative to Close the Agricultural Data Gap brings together committed partners to improve the capacity of 50 low- and lower-middle-income countries to produce, analyze, interpret, and apply data to decisions in the agricultural sector by 2030.

Led by a Program Management Team within the World Bank's Development Data Group, 50x2030 unites the technical and operational expertise of key multilateral implementers with the strategic influence, vision, and resources of development agencies and the commitment of partner countries.

The Initiative scales and builds upon the experiences of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' (FAO) Agricultural Integrated Survey (AGRISurvey) Programme and the World Bank's Living Standards Measurement Study-Integrated Surveys on Agriculture (LSMS-ISA) to help countries build strong national data systems that produce and use high-quality and timely agricultural and rural survey data. This effort is complemented by the International Fund for Agriculture Development's (IFAD) rich experience working in-country on small-holder agriculture. We also collaborate with a broad network of partners such as ReSAKSS led by AKADEMIYA2063, the Global Strategy to improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, and IFPRI.

50x2030 is ultimately looking to usher in agriculture's newest revolution: data-smart agriculture. It will also make possible a world where true change agents —governments, businesses, smallholders, researchers and civil society— will transform agriculture through evidence-based policies and investments.

Photo © LSMSPlus - Ethiopia (2020)

BUILDING FLEXIBLE TOOLS FOR DIVERSE COUNTRY NEEDS

The 50x2030 Initiative is based on survey models that are integrated into national data systems, adapting to their existing agricultural survey program. Countries agree to a survey program depending on their needs, capacity and potential for technical and financial take-over. Figure 1 illustrates the steps a partner country takes to build and implement a 50x2030 survey program.

These surveys address the data needs of Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2) to promote sustainable agriculture, end hunger, and achieve food security and improved nutrition; and the data needs of Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) in its monitoring role of the Malabo Declaration. In total, the Initiative aims to contribute to 8 SDG indicators and 9 CAADP indicators.

Most low- and lower-middle-income countries cannot produce three critical **SDG2** Indicators that should be collected through an agricultural survey:

2.3.1 Labor productivity
2.3.2 Small-holder income
2.4.1 Land under sustainable production

FIGURE 1. BUILDING A 50x2030 SURVEY PROGRAM

Selection and implemention of one rotating farm module annually

ILS-HH
Income and Living Standards - Household

ILP
Farm Income Labor and Productivity

Existing statistical system in the agricultural and rural sectors

Preparation and adaptation of existing data collection process to accommodate Annual Core Module

CORE AGRICULTURAL MODULE
Implementation of Annual Survey Program

PME
Production Methods and the Environment

MEA
Machinery, Equipment and Assets

AGREE TO FINAL 50x2030 SURVEY PROGRAM
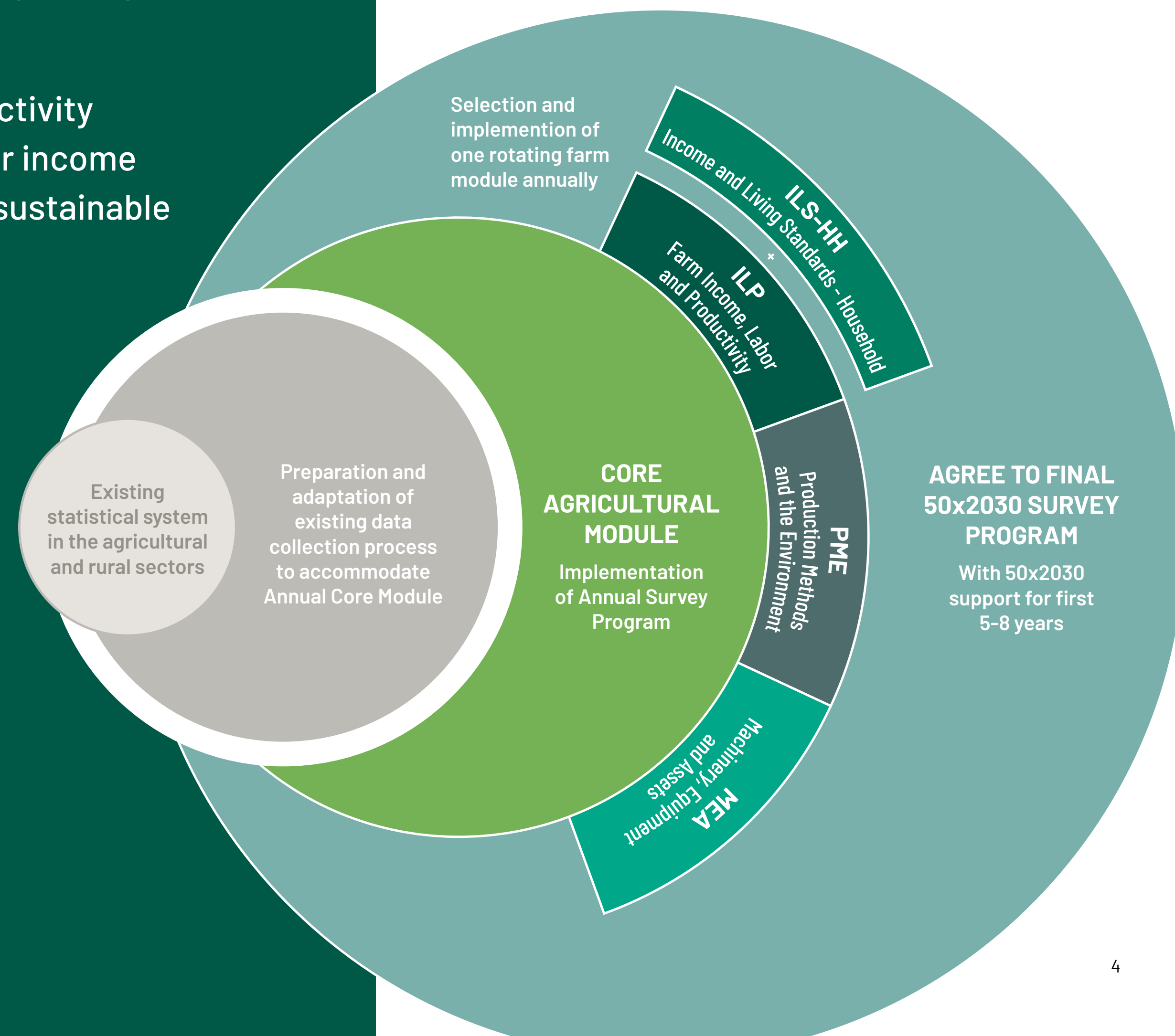With 50x2030 support for first 5-8 years

FIGURE 2. EXAMPLES OF 50x2030 SURVEY PROGRAMS IN IMPLEMENTATION

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A participating country can choose to integrate a household-based rural socioeconomic survey program into a farm-based agricultural survey program. Within a country's statistical system, an integrated agricultural and rural survey approach is ideal as it produces more data, increases data interoperability and yields greater cost efficiencies.

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.

FAO's Statistics Division leads all data production activities.

COUNTRY A
Indicative example of an Agricultural Survey programme

COUNTRY B
Indicative example of an Integrated Agricultural and Rural programme

COUNTRY C
Indicative example of an Agricultural Survey programme beginning after the organisation of a Census of Agriculture

COUNTRY D
Indicative example of an Integrated Agricultural and Rural programme beginning after the organisation of a Census of Agriculture

*Agricultural censuses are not funded by the 50x2030 Initiative.

ADVANCING KNOWLEDGE

Alongside these survey programs, 50x2030 prioritizes methodological research for agricultural and rural surveys to produce more efficient and cost-effective tools. The Initiative develops and documents methodological solutions for the efficient implementation of its modular survey systems. An active, applied survey research program develops, tests and disseminates new data collection approaches, emphasizing the integration of sensors and modern technologies for objective and cost-effective data collection.

50x2030 is also exploring obstacles to and developing solutions for the integration of survey data with different data sources, including census, geospatial and adminis-trative data. The goal is to enhance the value of survey data in policy-relevant analysis and research. The World Bank's Center for Development Data (C4D2) leads on methods and tools development activities.

Data should be collected, shared and *used*

ENSURING AGRICULTURAL DATA FOR ALL

Supply-side efforts focused on data production alone are unlikely to increase the use of evidence in decision-making. To ensure the sustainability of its impact, the Initiative prioritizes a frequently overlooked aspect of data-collection projects: ensuring data are actually used.

Data use activities under the Initiative involve strengthening a country's data ecosystem —stakeholders, data assets, the structures that govern them— by improving capacities, communications, policies and practices.

The work begins with a complex data ecosystem mapping, which assesses how components of the ecosystem interact, and where enablers and constraints to data use exist. Based on the findings of the mapping, together stakeholders develop a multi-year approach to data use. The goal is to develop the capacity and motivation of decision makers to use data, to influence data producers to align with decision maker needs and to improve data sharing and open data.

50x2030 data-use activities are designed and implemented by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).

BRIDGING THE DATA GAP IN A SUSTAINABLE WAY

Country demand and leadership are prerequisites for participation in 50x2030. In collaboration with the Program Management Team, a partner government leads the design and implementation of the program with technical support from FAO, IFAD, and the World Bank. Partner countries are required to contribute resources to their chosen survey programs and to increase their contributions annually, with the objective of assuming financial and technical responsibility for the survey programs in five to eight years.

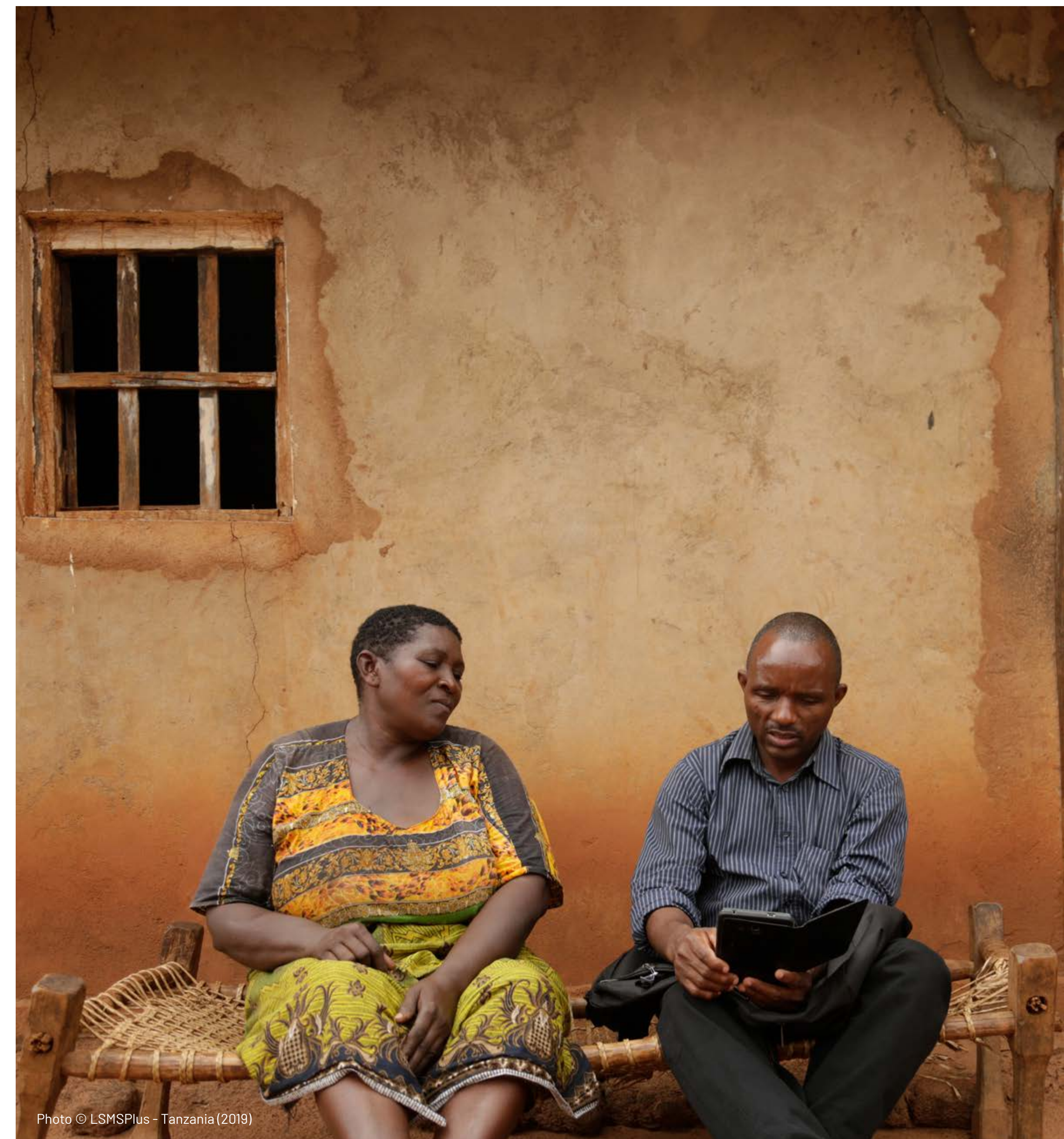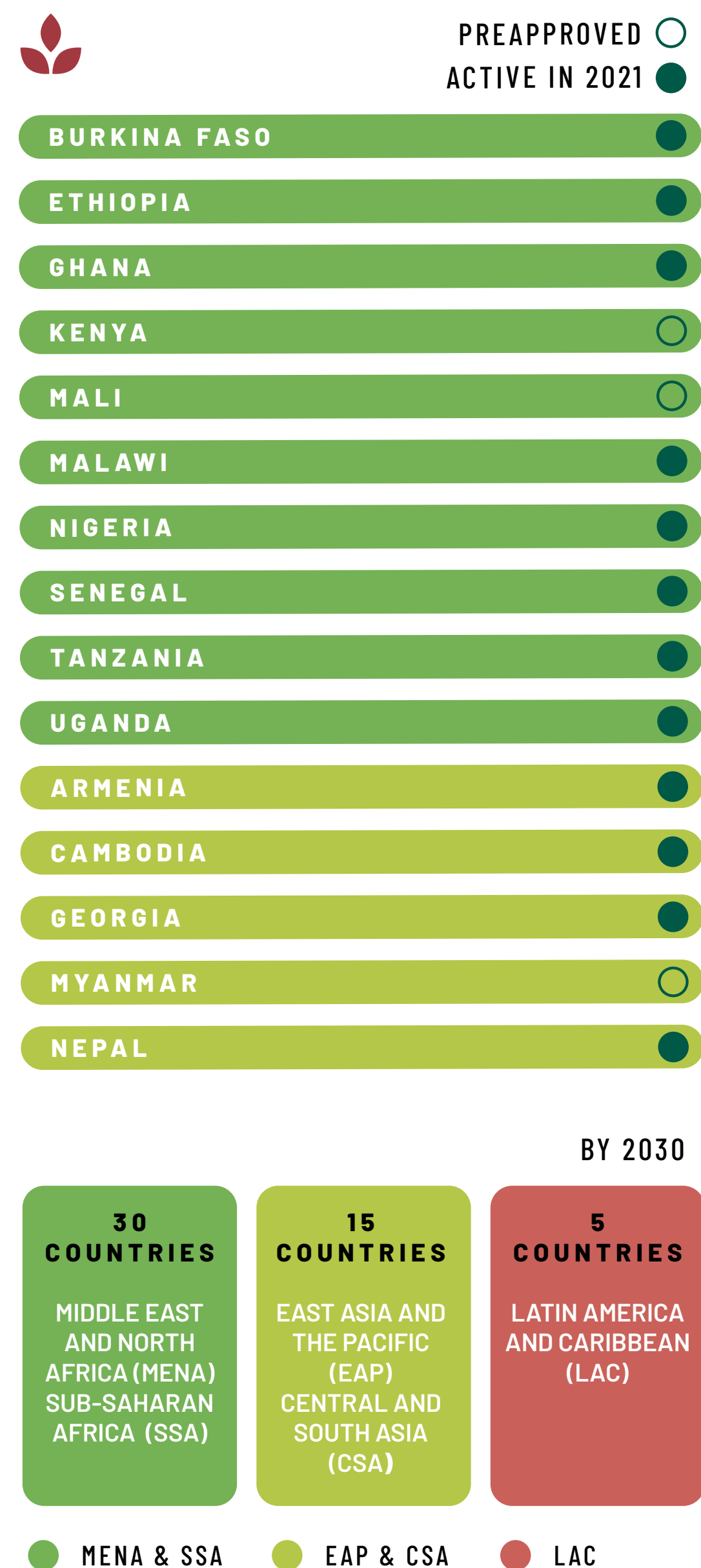## FIGURE 3. ILLUSTRATIVE COUNTRY ROLL-OUT

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PREAPPROVED ○
ACTIVE IN 2021 ●

- BURKINA FASO ●
- ETHIOPIA ●
- GHANA ●
- KENYA ○
- MALI ○
- MALAWI ●
- NIGERIA ●
- SENEGAL ●
- TANZANIA ●
- UGANDA ●
- ARMENIA ●
- CAMBODIA ●
- GEORGIA ●
- MYANMAR ○
- NEPAL ●

BY 2030

30 COUNTRIES	15 COUNTRIES	5 COUNTRIES
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA (MENA) SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA (SSA)	EAST ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (EAP) CENTRAL AND SOUTH ASIA (CSA)	LATIN AMERICA AND CARIBBEAN (LAC)

● MENA & SSA ● EAP & CSA ● LAC

Photo © LSMSPlus - Tanzania (2019)

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TRANSFORMING THE AGRICULTURAL DATA SYSTEMS OF 50 COUNTRIES BY 2030 TO ADVANCE DATA-SMART AGRICULTURE
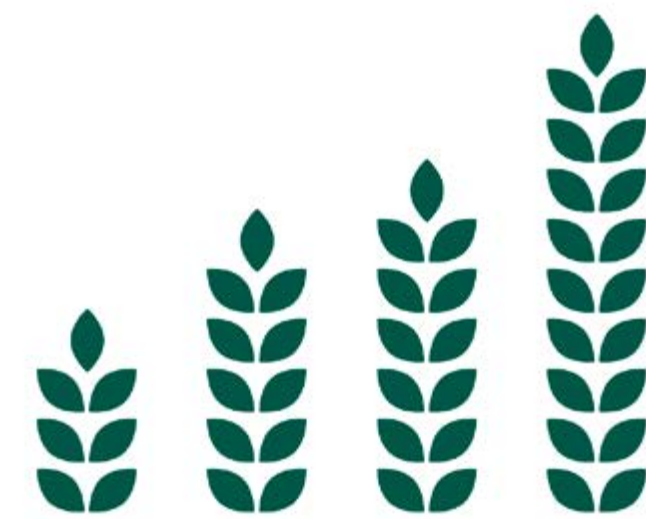
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