Image: state stat

The 50x2030 Initiative

Transforming Agricultural Data Systems to Improve Food Security & Livelihoods

The Agricultural Data Gap

Each year, low- and lower-middle-income countries invest nearly 500 billion dollars in agriculture, often without good evidence to inform those investments. The impact? Losses in productivity, shortfalls in agricultural income and, ultimately, more hunger and poverty. Additionally, nearly 4 trillion dollars-worth of global production was lost due to disaster events over the past 30 years. In the face of climate change, now is the time for sustainable, resilient agricultural systems.

It is of this need that the **50x2030 Initiative to Close the Agricultural Data Gap** was born. Cover: farmer in Borneo, Malaysia. Photo by Pat Whelen via Unsplash.

This page: satelite image of Macau. Photo by Imaginearth via Unsplash.

What We Do

The 50x2030 Initiative is a multi-agency partnership that seeks to bridge the global agricultural data gap by transforming data systems in 50 countries by 2030. Through increased data availability and usage, 50x2030 will contribute to improved rural livelihoods and food security in direct partnership with countries and in alignment with national priorities.

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.

Key 50x2030 activities:

- 1. Building and improving agriculture data systems in countries and strengthening governance of agricultural data
- 2. Producing agricultural data through annual surveys
- 3. Promoting the use of survey data in agriculture policymaking and decisions
- 4. Conducting research to improve agriculture survey methodologies and tools

The 50x2030 Initiative is 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.

Investing in Data Systems in a Sustainable Way

Country demand and leadership are prerequisites for participation in the 50x2030 Initiative. In collaboration with the Program Management Team, a partner government leads the design and implementation of the program with technical support from 50x2030 implementing agencies: FAO, the World Bank and IFAD. Partner countries contribute resources to their chosen survey programs (through their own resources or through credit/IDA funding), with the objective of assuming full financial and technical responsibility by project-end. This ensures long-term sustainability of national data systems well beyond 2030.

Building Flexible Tools for Diverse Country Needs

The 50x2030 Initiative works with countries to define needs and build robust, sustainable agricultural survey programs that leverage and integrate into national data systems. These survey programs also support:

- Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2) to achieve zero hunger
- Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG5) to achieve gender equality
- Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) data requirements

In total, the Initiative aims to contribute to 8 SDG indicators and 9 CAADP indicators. Further, 50x2030 supports countries in measuring women's empowerment and nutrition through the integration of a dedicated survey instrument.

GPS area measurement in Niger. Photo by Alberto Zezza, World Bank.



Survey programs supported by the 50x2030 Initiative are designed to provide complete, fully representative data on agriculture from both household and non-household (commercial) farms over a 10-year cycle, which is the typical time in between Agricultural Censuses.

The 50x2030 survey program has a flexible modular approach that can respond to emerging demands at national, regional or global levels and can be customized according to country priorities. The program connects an annual core module with periodic rotating modules covering vital socioeconomic and environmental variables, including:

- Farm Income, Labor and Productivity (ILP)
- Non-Farm Income and Living Standards (ILS-HH)
- Machinery, Equipment and Assets (MEA-AG)
- Production Methods and Environment (PME-AG)

In addition to generating data and indicators specific to agricultural productivity, these modules also assess other developmental priorities, such as access to financing, women's empowerment and prevalence of sustainable practices in farming. The data produced are regularly disseminated across national data platforms, fulfilling a primary objective of the Initiative: facilitating data dissemination and ensuring microdata accessibility to inform national programs and development partners, while also enabling the monitoring of processes.

The Data Production component provides technical assistance to countries and builds statistical capacities along the data production process to ensure the successful implementation of the program and the development of sustainable national survey systems that address country-specific needs and priorities.

Advancing Knowledge

Alongside these survey programs, 50x2030 prioritizes methodological research for agricultural and rural surveys to achieve the following outcomes:

- Produce more efficient and cost-effective methods and tools for high-guality data collection
- Develop solutions for the efficient implementation of modular survey systems
- Develop, test and disseminate new data collection approaches, emphasizing the integration of sensors and modern technologies
- Develop solutions for the integration of survey data with different data sources, such as geospatial data

The 50x2030 Methods and Tools Component has validated methods in several domains, including: measurement of soil health and climate/weather variability at the local level, land area measurement and piloting of a new module on digital agriculture information and services.

Through rigorous validation and testing, and subsequent provision of practical guidance and questionnaire instruments, the Initiative promotes robust, innovative approaches to agricultural and rural surveys.

Ensuring Data for All

The Data Use Component works with countries to increase the use of data through trainings, technical assistance and peer-learning. These activities lead to evidence-based planning and data-driven policy, supporting a culture of data use which leads to more investment in agricultural data systems.

Key stakeholders for Data Use:

- Decision makers, such as government officials
- Data Intermediaries who analyze data to produce evidence, such as technical staff
- Multilateral organizations, journalists, civil society organizations and the private sector

CASE STUDIES:

Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone launched its Feed Salone Strategy in late 2023 to achieve national food security. 50x2030 partnered with the Ministry of Agriculture and Food Security to identify key agricultural sector indicators that would inform the Strategy and support national goals.



50x2030 provided technical assistance in Cambodia to the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries focused on leveraging historic Cambodia Agricultural Survey data for decision-making in support of national food security priorities.

The Road to 2030

Key Achievements and Impact of the 50x2030 Initiative



GEORGIA

Advancing Data-Smart Agriculture in 50 Countries by 2030



Rice fields in Khau Pha Pass, Vietnam. Photo by Doan Tuan via Unsplash.



VISIT US AT

50x2030.org







JIFAD

BILL& MELINDA GATES foundation



FOR DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION

Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

> MINISTÈRE DE L'EUROPE ET DES AFFAI ÈTRANGÈRES Janny Zahini Janny

