# 50x2030

## DATA-SMART AGRICULTURE

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THE **50x2030** INITIATIVE BRINGS TOGETHER THE STRONGEST PARTNERS IN AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF THE AGRICULTURAL DATA GAP.

# SOLVING THE AGRICULTURAL DATA GAP

Good decisions are fundamental for agricultural growth. Yet, decisions can only be as good as the evidence that informs them. Each year, businesses, governments, and development organizations invest nearly $239 billion in agriculture in low-income and lower middle-income countries (L/LMICs). Governments make critical policy decisions, often without the benefit of recent or accurate agricultural data.[1] Businesses, including small-holder producers, often "shoot in the dark" with their investment decisions because reliable information is unavailable. The lack and limited use of data lead to sub-optimal decisions, causing losses in productivity and agricultural income and, ultimately, more hunger and poverty.

Sustainable Development Goal 2 (SDG2) — to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture — serves as a rallying cry to address the data problem in agriculture. The CAADP Malabo declaration 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. Thus, closing the agricultural data gap, and keeping it closed, is a critical precondition for the evidence-based decisionmaking and investments needed to foster agricultural development and achieve SDG2. ■

[1] Brookings Institute's *Ending Rural Hunger* report (2017)

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MOST LOW-INCOME AND LOWER MIDDLE-INCOME COUNTRIES CURRENTLY 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*

GOOD DECISIONS ARE FUNDAMENTAL FOR AGRICULTURAL GROWTH. YET, DECISIONS CAN ONLY BE AS GOOD AS THE EVIDENCE THAT INFORMS THEM.

# A PARTNERSHIP FOR DATA-SMART AGRICULTURE

The 50x2030 Initiative brings together the strongest partners in agricultural development to solve the problem of the agricultural data gap. Led by a coordination center within the World Bank's Development Data Group, 50x2030 joins 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 committed 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 the Food and Agriculture Organization's (FAO) 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 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. 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. ■

# FLEXIBLE TOOLS FOR VARYING COUNTRY NEEDS

The 50x2030 Initiative offers two survey models that address SDG2 data needs and build national data systems. 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 all data-production activities.

## The Agricultural Survey Model

The Agricultural Survey Model is designed to provide complete, fully representative data on agriculture from both household and non-household (commercial) farms over a 10-year cycle. Like the AGRISurvey, it has a modular approach that joins an annual core module and several periodic rotating modules that cover vital socioeconomic and environmental variables. Its flexible modular approach creates a survey system that can respond to emerging demands at regional, national, or international levels. ■



## The Integrated Agricultural and Rural Survey Model

The Integrated Agricultural and Rural Survey Model 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 model, the integrated model collects data from a representative sample of all agricultural enterprises — household and non-household — on agricultural topics like production, revenues, and farm practices. Building on that, the integrated model incorporates surveys of rural households that cover socioeconomic and demographic topics like income, poverty, employment, and food security.

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

| | Years | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CORE MODULE | Agricultural Holding Roster | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Crop Production | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Livestock Production | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| ROTATING MODULES | Agricultural Economy | ■ | | ■ | ■ | ■ | | ■ | ■ | | ■ |
| | Agricultural Labor | | ■ | | | ■ | | | ■ | | |
| | Production Methods and the Environment | | | | ■ | | ■ | | | ■ | |
| | Machinery, Equipment, and Assets | ■ | | | | ■ | | | | | |

FIGURE 2. *An example of an Integrated Agricultural and Rural Survey program*

| | Years | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 7 | 8 | 9 | 10 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| AGRICULTURAL MODULE | Agricultural Holding Roster | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Crop Production | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| | Livestock Production | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ | ■ |
| RURAL SOCIO-ECONOMIC MODULE ROTATING MODULES | Socioeconomic (Income, Labor, etc.) for Agricultural Households | | | ■ | | | ■ | | | ■ | |
| | Socioeconomic (Income, Labor, etc.) for Non-Agricultural Households | | | ■ | | | ■ | | | ■ | |

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

## CLOSING THE GAP AND KEEPING IT CLOSED

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.
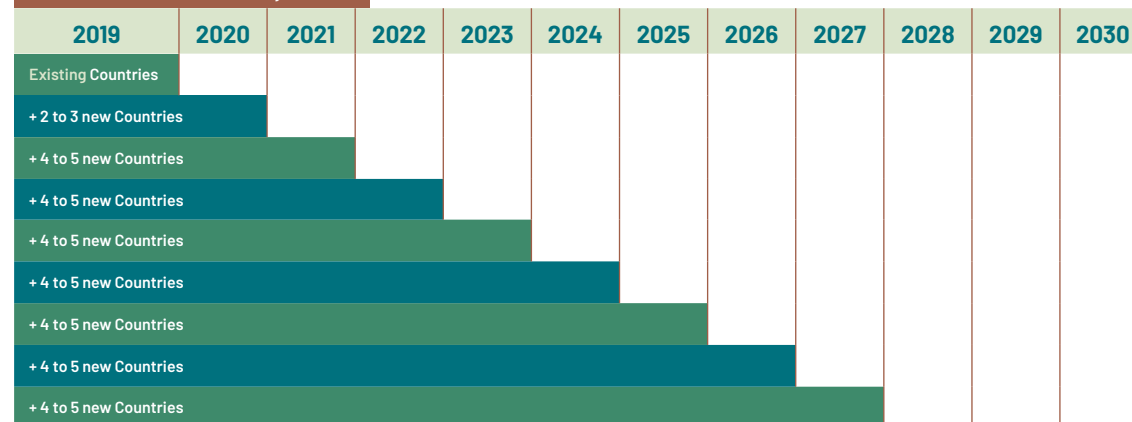
50x2030 also strives to build the capacity and motivation of decisionmakers to use data, to strengthen data producers to align with decisionmaker needs, and to improve data sharing and open data. The inclusion of a data-use objective recognizes that supply-side efforts focused on data production alone are unlikely to increase the use of evidence in decisionmaking. 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.

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. Partner countries will be required to contribute resources to their chosen survey programs from the start 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 | | | | | | | | | | | |
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## 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 decisionmaking in agriculture, moving the world toward zero hunger, global food security, improved nutrition, and sustainable agriculture. ■

50x2030

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AGRICULTURE

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