

Agriculture data country profile

This document is a learning resource for Gates Foundation program officers that will provide a briefing or background information on the data policy & wider context for agriculture projects in specific countries.

Why complete an agriculture data country profile?

The objective of filling in a country data profile is to conduct a broad landscape review of the main data and agriculture related laws, policies and regulators across a particular country or region of the world, the relationship with state governments and insight into intellectual property laws.

The collation and analysis of such information will help:

- flag any major legal or regulatory barriers to the use of agriculture data in projects
- flag any cultural sensitivities or norms that need to be taken into consideration when starting a new investment process in a country or region.
- maximise the impact of investments made and ensure projects are designed appropriately.

What is included in it?

The country data profile includes five sections that provide a basis for understanding the landscape of laws, regulations, policies and technology related to data in a country.

1. Data & technology - capacity and infrastructure & wider political and technological trends
2. Data regulation and laws
3. Agricultural law
4. Related/ relevant grants

These questions have been inspired by a method put together by the Open Data Institute to review the legal, regulatory and policy context when putting together health data challenge programmes¹.

Who should complete it?

The country data profile could be completed by a program officer, grantee, the Foundation in-country team or it could be subcontracted to a third party. It is likely to require desk research and engagement with stakeholders in-country, especially if availability of information online is sparse.

¹ The Open Data Institute (2020), '[Data challenge prizes for health: a Playbook](#)'

How to fill it in?

This guide outlines key questions to ask to review the background on relevant data and agricultural policies, key stakeholders and ongoing work in a specific country or region.

Collecting information related to each section might require a combination of desk research, engagement with in-country stakeholders, engagement with Gates Foundation staff who have worked in the region before.

You can answer each section as relevant to the investment. Suggestions of information sources and examples related to the situation in specific countries are included to help identify what to look for when answering each section.

Ensure you record the date when completing the template as key political context and laws might change over time.

Questions

Data & Technology - capacity, infrastructure & wider trends

This section aims at providing an overview of the capacity and infrastructure in place in the country as it pertains to data and technology. Questions can be answered through desk research or engagement with stakeholders in-country. Useful places to look into include latest news articles.

1. How is this country's access to technology and internet?
2. Is there existing capacity related to data management in this country (presence of tech universities, research councils, data scientists in general)?
3. Has there been any recent political volatility? Could this volatility be linked to land and borders, and therefore potentially impacting on agriculture data collection and publication? (ex: protests and revolutions that change governments, border clashes with neighbouring states)
4. Is there ongoing political tension? Could this tension be linked to land and borders, and therefore potentially impacting on agriculture data collection and publication? (ex: ongoing ethnic strife over internal borders)
5. Has there been any recently introduced technology to the country that could affect the agricultural data landscape? Have any technologies been replaced or made obsolete or undesirable? (ex: launching satellites, new data centre investments, etc.)

Data regulation and laws

This section aims at understanding the general policy context. It can be covered through desk research, searching via key words such as data protection law, agriculture data regulation, data protection enforcement, agriculture data agreement. The goal is to cover the main data related laws, policies and regulators, the relationship with state governments and insight into data rights (e.g. individual rights to data, rights for data creators, rights for governments, rights for citizens), data licensing and intellectual property laws.

Useful places to look into include official government websites, news articles, research publications, think tanks, DLA piper (data protection laws of the world).

6. To what extent is there an open data policy or strategy for this country, including open data or data access?
7. Is the country a member of any international organisation that promotes a specific type of data access, use and sharing?
8. What data protection laws apply in this country? (For example, a Data Protection Act)
9. What other laws apply in this country that might affect the use of data, and in particular, agriculture data? (For example, laws related to the Digital Economy Act, confidentiality, competition)
10. To what degree are data protection laws, and other laws that might affect the use of agriculture data, devolved (e.g. to regions, states, cities, etc)? (For example, in some countries data protection law and enforcement is not devolved)
11. What organisations are responsible for enforcing data protection laws, and other laws that might affect the use of agriculture data? (For example, in the UK, there is the Information Commissioner's Office)
12. How effective is the enforcement of data protection law, and other laws that might affect the use of agriculture data? (For example, in the UK, the ICO is fairly well regarded but is sometimes described as underfunded)

Agriculture law

The next section aims at gathering agriculture specific information (any context that agriculture specific context that would need to be considered for a project).

This section can vary depending on the scope chosen for the country profile. The focus can be on agriculture in general, or on a specific aspect (seeds, livestock, etc).

It can be covered through a mix of desk research and engagement / interviews with key stakeholders identified through research on regulation and laws. The goal is to identify the main agricultural (e.g. soil, agronomy) related laws, policies and regulators that may impact on the access, use or sharing of data and information.

Useful places to look into include official government websites, news articles, research publications.

13. What types of laws exist in this country that affect agriculture more widely (or the specific area the investment is looking into, such as seed), and what organisations are involved in this?
14. Are there any upcoming regulations?
15. At a high level, what are the respective roles of the public, private and third sector in the agriculture sector?
16. Who is involved in, or shape, the collection, use and sharing of agriculture data in this country (public sector, private sector, third sector)?
17. Have there been any high profile failures or successes related to the collection, use and sharing of agriculture data?
18. Are there any developments, pressures or opportunities unspecific to the sector that may affect the collection, use and sharing of agriculture data?

Related / relevant grants

This section aims at providing an overview of previous initiatives in the country and any lessons learned. It can be covered through engagement with the AgDev team at the Gates Foundation and with project teams identified through desk research.

19. Are there any other grants within the portfolio that are funded in this location?
20. Do we have insights into what worked/what did not work in the past (previous projects for instance)?
21. Are there any current grants (co-funded or funded outside of Gates Foundation) in this location?

Resources

Collect here all the useful places to look into to update the country profile.

Some resources might include:

- Open Data Barometer <https://opendatabarometer.org/>
- World Bank Indicators <https://data.worldbank.org/>
- World Bank country pages <https://www.worldbank.org/en/where-we-work>
- Internet World Stats <https://www.internetworldstats.com/stats.htm>
- DLA Piper Data Protection Laws of the World
<https://www.dlapiperdataprotection.com/index.html>
- Network readiness index <https://networkreadinessindex.org/>
- Data guidance <https://www.dataguidance.com/>
- WIPO IP Portal <https://ipportal.wipo.int/>
- The state of open humanitarian data
<https://centre.humdata.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/StateofData2020.pdf>
- How much does your country invest in R&D?
<http://uis.unesco.org/apps/visualisations/research-and-development-spending/>