SDG indicator metadata

(Harmonized metadata template - format version 1.0)

0. Indicator information

0.a. Goal

Goal 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture

0.b. Target

Target 2.3: By 2030, double the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment

0.c. Indicator

Indicator 2.3.1: Volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size

0.d. Series

Productivity of small-scale food producers (agricultural output per labour day, PPP) (constant 2011 international $) (primary series)

Productivity of large-scale food producers (agricultural output per labour day, PPP) (constant 2011 international $) (complementary series)

0.e. Metadata update

15 February 2021

0.f. Related indicators

SDG indicator 2.3.2

0.g. International organisations(s) responsible for global monitoring

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

1. Data reporter

1.a. Organisation

Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

2. Definition, concepts, and classifications

2.a. Definition and concepts

Definition:
Volume of agricultural production of small-scale food producer in crop, livestock, fisheries, and forestry activities per number of days.

The indicator is computed as a *ratio of annual output to the number of working days in one year*.

FAO proposes to define small-scale food producers as producers who:

- operate an amount of land falling in the first two quintiles (the bottom 40 percent) of the cumulative distribution of land size at national level (measured in hectares); and
- operate a number of livestock falling in the first two quintiles (the bottom 40 percent) of the cumulative distribution of the number of livestock per production unit at national level (measured in Tropical Livestock Units – TLUs); and
- obtain an annual economic revenue from agricultural activities falling in the first two quintiles (the bottom 40 percent) of the cumulative distribution of economic revenues from agricultural activities per production unit at national level (measured in Purchasing Power Parity Dollars) not exceeding 34,387 Purchasing Power Parity Dollars.

Concepts:

- The following concepts are adopted for the computation of indicators 2.3.1:
- Small-scale food producers are defined as those falling in the intersection of the bottom 40 percent of the cumulative distribution of land, livestock and revenues.
- Tropical Livestock Units are a conversion scale used for standardization and measurement of the number of livestock heads. One TLU is the metabolic weight equivalent of one cattle in North America. The complete list of conversion factors can be found in the Guidelines for the preparation of livestock sector Reviews
- The concept of productivity is standardized by OECD's Manual for Measuring Productivity. This defines productivity as "a ratio of a volume measure of outputs to a volume measure of input use." More information on possible definitions can be found in "Productivity and Efficiency Measurement in Agriculture: Literature Review and Gaps Analysis".

2.b. Unit of measure

Value of production per labour day of small-scale food producers in constant PPP USD 2011.

2.c. Classifications

Tier II

3. Data source type and data collection method

3.a. Data sources

Given that indicator 2.3.1 is measured on a target population of producers – those considered as small-scale – the ideal data source for measuring them is a single survey that collects all the information required with reference to individual production units. The most appropriate data source for collecting information on total volume of agricultural production and on labour input adopted on the agricultural holding would be agricultural surveys. Other possibilities to be explored in absence of an agricultural surveys are:

1) household surveys integrated with an agricultural module,
2) agricultural censuses,
3) administrative data.

3.b. Data collection method

The target population of indicator 2.3.1. are small-scale producers for which the best data sources are agricultural surveys. These contain information on agricultural production, economic variables and labour input. However, agricultural surveys are not conducted in a systematic way, so they may be scattered in long time periods. FAO promotes the Agricultural Integrated Surveys project (AGRISurvey) which collects data in a yearly basis for different modules, e.g. agricultural production.

Currently, the indicator is produced globally using the Living Standards Measurement Study (LSMS) of the World Bank. Some countries contain an Integrated Surveys of Agriculture (LSMS-ISA). These surveys include information such as farm size, disaggregation by geographic areas, type of activities and type of households, values of output, values of production costs and number of work hours in different activities. Such surveys have data relevant to the computation of the indicators.

FAO, along with the World Bank and IFAD are compiling harmonized indicators of rural livelihoods with information on micro-level household data and the LSMS project. The initiative is called RuLIS (Rural Livelihoods Information System) which includes the indicators disaggregated by gender, rural areas, urban areas, income quintiles and income percentage that comes from agriculture.

Some of the datasets utilized to do the computation of the indicator 2.3.1. can be seen in Annex 1 of the document "Methodology for Computing and Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goal Indicators 2.3.1 and 2.3.2." available in http://www.fao.org/3/ca3043en/CA3043EN.pdf and Annex 1 of the document "Rural Livelihoods Information System (RuLIS). Technical notes on concepts and definitions used for the indicators derived from household surveys" available in http://www.fao.org/3/ca2813en/CA2813EN.pdf.

3.c. Data collection calendar

To be determined. Given the frequency of the type of surveys required to compute indicators, it is expected that countries may refresh information every 3 years at best.

3.d. Data release calendar

To be determined. Given the frequency of the type of surveys required to compute indicators, it is expected that new data may be communicated to FAO every 2 years at best.

3.e. Data providers

National Statistical Offices or other institutions involved in agricultural surveys, such as dedicated statistics offices of the Ministry of Agriculture

3.f. Data compilers

Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

3.g. Institutional mandate

Article I of the FAO constitution requires that the Organization collect, analyses, interpret and disseminate information relating to nutrition, food and agriculture.
http://www.fao.org/3/K8024E/K8024E.pdf.

4. Other methodological considerations

4.a. Rationale

The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda has emphasized the importance of enhancing productivity of small-scale food producers, as these producers play an important role in the global production of food. The indicator monitors progress in this area, where the target is to double productivity by year 2030. The enhancement of labour productivity in small-scale production units also has implications on poverty reduction, as small-scale food producers are often poor, and are frequently found to be close to subsistence conditions.

4.b. Comment and limitations

Given the approved methodology, the computation of the indicator requires survey microdata collected at the farm level on a wide range of variables – including all element allowing to compute revenues and costs of the enterprise together with labour input and the availability of land and livestock – referred to the same production unit. Such type of surveys are seldom collected at the national level. For this reason the availability of data for the indicator is altogether limited. In some countries, data can be obtained from household surveys reporting details on agricultural production. These data sources have to be considered as second-best solution, given that their sampling is focused on households and not on food production units. While in many countries there is a considerable degree of overlap between the population of food producers and households, this is still a partial overlap, which can undermine the accuracy of the computation.

4.c. Method of computation

Computation Method:

$$\text{SDG } 2.3.1 = I_{2.3.1}^t = \sum_{j=1}^{n} \left(\frac{\sum_i V_{ij}^t p_{ij}^t}{Ld_j^t} \right) / n$$

where:
V_{ij}^t is the physical volume of agricultural product i sold by the small-scale food producer j during year t;
p_{ij}^t is the constant sale price received by the small-scale food producer j for the agricultural product i during same year t;
Ld_j^t is the number of labour days utilized by the small-scale food producer j during year t;
n is the number of small-scale food producer.

As the indicator is referred to a set of production units – those of a small scale — the denominator needs to summarize information on the entire production undertaken in each unit. This requires that volumes of production are reported in a common numeraire, given that it is impossible to sum up physical units. The most convenient numeraire for aggregating products in the numerator is a vector of constant prices. When measured at different points in time, as required by the monitoring of the SDG indicators, changes in constant values represent aggregated volume changes.

4.d. Validation

RuLIS aims to produce comparable data on rural incomes, livelihoods and development across countries and over time. The rural livelihoods indicators are built from survey microdata at the individual, household and community level.

The first stage consists on cleaning the original survey data in Stata to obtain harmonized variables. The original, intermediate and final datasets are stored in Stata and csv formats in different project folders with a defined structure, allowing for an easy query of the data by Stata and R. The second stage detects and treats outliers in the produced variables of Stage 1. Namely, the best transformation for each variable is found with automatized commands. The treatment consists on an imputation on the outlying observations detected on the step before. Finally, the imputed datasets are used to compute the indicators.

The analysis of the indicator allows to assess the advancement on the SDG 2.3 which aims to double the agricultural productivity and income of small-scale producers by 2030.

4.e. Adjustments

The productivity of small-scale food producers per labor day is the dataset is in local currency units (LCU). For each country and year, the LCU labor value of production has to be converted into PPP 2011 USD. The process first consists on accounting for inflation in the currency, for which the Consumer Price Index (CPI) of each country is used; once deflated, it is converted into PPP 2011 USD, which allows for a homogenous standard of the indicator. SDG 2.3 not only focuses on small-scale farmers, but also on women and people with indigenous status. The indicator (which is at the household level) is then calculated disaggregated by sex, that is, whether the household is female or male headed.

4.f. Treatment of missing values (i) at country level and (ii) at regional level

- At country level

Variables employed in the computation are subject to outlier detection, through Median Absolute Deviations and other approaches, on a case by case basis.

- At regional and global levels

No imputation of data is made at the regional and global level.

4.g. Regional aggregations

No regional or global aggregates can be computed, given the limited availability of data.

4.h. Methods and guidance available to countries for the compilation of the data at the national level

Countries can rely on the methodology paper available at http://www.fao.org/3/ca3043en/ca3043en.pdf and the elearning available at https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=483 .

4.i. Quality management

Logical and arithmetic control of reporting data is carried out.

4.j Quality assurance

The microdata of surveys utilized in the computation are publicly available, hence their quality rests with the producers. The quality of the calculation was checked with a number of colleagues, and with two independent peer-reviewers of the RuLIS project.

4.k Quality assessment

Qualitative assessment has been performed on the final estimations of the indicator, which was updated this year and compared with 2019 results. PPP conversion factors are retrieved from the World Bank and are constantly updated, which results in a change of conversion factors and therefore a slight modification in the results on indicator 2.3.1. from 2019 to 2021.

Some countries have data that needs to be assessed further, either checks on the raw data and/or the processing of data by the RuLIS team.

5. Data availability and disaggregation

Data availability:

Data is still not available in a systematic and harmonized fashion. The following data availability information is provided based on available suitable surveys in selected countries.

Breakdown of the number of countries covered by region is as follows:

	Number of countries	Nature of data
World	8	E
Africa	7	E
Northern Africa		
Sub-Saharan Africa		
Eastern Africa	4	E
Middle Africa		
Southern Africa		
Western Africa	3	E
Americas		
Latin America and the Caribbean		
Caribbean		
Latin America		
Northern America		
Asia	1	E
Central Asia		
Eastern Asia		
Southern Asia	1	E
South-Eastern Asia		
Western Asia		
Europe		
Eastern Europe		

Northern Europe		
Southern Europe		
Western Europe		
Oceania		
Australia and New Zealand		
Melanesia		
Micronesia		
Polynesia		

Time series:
By 2030.

Disaggregation:
Indicator 2.3.1 must be disaggregated by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size. The overall SDG Target 2.3 requires specific focus on women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers. For this reason, the indicator must be disaggregated by sex, type of enterprise and by community of reference.

6. Comparability / deviation from international standards

Sources of discrepancies:
Not applicable.

7. References and Documentation

- Note on "Proposed Methodology for Computing and Monitoring the sustainable Development Goal Indicator 2.3.1 and 2.3.2", Office of the Chief Statistician and Statistics Division, FAO, Rome

- Defining Small Scale Food producers to Monitor Target 2.3 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. FAO Statistics Division Working Paper available at http://www.fao.org/3/a-i6858e.pdf