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# Environment statistics

The work of the environment statistics team of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) focuses on providing data to support evidence-based decision making for sustainable agriculture in relation to natural resources. It contributes to the key function of the Organization of collecting, analyzing, interpreting and disseminating information relating to food and agriculture.

The activities support FAO's strategic objective of making agriculture, forestry and fisheries more productive and sustainable. Within FAO's work on the fight against hunger and malnutrition and towards the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), the Environment Statistics work focuses in particular on promoting sustainable agriculture and protecting, restoring and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems.

## Area of work

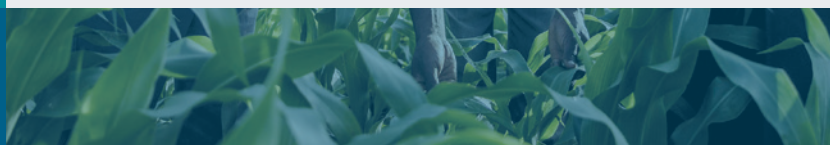
The environment statistics team disseminates methodological data it has developed to improve statistical analyses. It also provides capacity building for data users on a global scale.

The team's main areas of statistical work:

- > Fertilizers, pesticides and land use;
- > Agri-environmental indicators; and
- > Climate change and geospatial.

The team maintains data domains in FAOSTAT, the FAO digital platform on food and agriculture statistics, in terms of inputs on agriculture, greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions and a selection of agri-environmental indicators.

Data on fertilizers, pesticides and land use, irrigation and agricultural practices are collected annually from national focal points in member countries through FAOSTAT questionnaires. Of particular relevance to the team is the area of geospatial information that is available in various FAOSTAT domains, including those that relate to temperature change, land cover and GHG emissions.





## Core objectives

- > Collect, analyze, interpret and disseminate global environmental statistics relating to agriculture at the country level to support evidence-based decision-making.
- > Support users of FAOSTAT in their interpretation of data.
- > Support countries in their effort to strengthen their national environment statistics relating to food and agriculture, as well as analysis and international reporting needs. These include climate change monitoring processes based on the Indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), in particular, Indicator 2.4.1. (Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture).

## Key products by statistical function

### Data collection and dissemination

- > Update FAOSTAT domains relating to fertilizers, pesticides and land use, irrigation and agricultural practices.
- > Update FAOSTAT domains relating to GHG emissions from agriculture and land use.

- > Update FAOSTAT agri-environmental indicators relating to land use, land cover, fertilizers, pesticides and climate change.
- > Data on SDG 2.4.1 (area under sustainable agriculture) for international reporting.

### Methodological work

- > Constant updating of methodologies for imputation and quality control of data collected from questionnaires.
- > Constant updating of methodologies for the calculation of data generated (e.g. GHG emission estimates).
- > Development of methodologies for processing, interpreting and applying geospatial and earth observations data for environmental statistics; and quality assessment of national data sources.
- > Methodological documents on the linkage of the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (SEEA-AFF) to accounting and valuation of natural capital and ecosystem services.

### Capacity development

- > Support to worldwide FAOSTAT data users of domains maintained by the Environment Statistics Team, including the underlying methodologies.
- > Provision of country training to national experts on land use, land cover, fertilizers, pesticides and climate change statistics, as well as on environmental-economic accounting.

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### FURTHER INFORMATION

- > **Environment statistics team website:**  
[www.fao.org/economic/ess/agri-environment/en](http://www.fao.org/economic/ess/agri-environment/en)

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