Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

BUILDING FORWARD BETTER
INITIATIVE

THEMATIC AREA

MONITORING, EVALUATION & LEARNING

1. Description of the module

Complex and interlinked trends, including global population growth and climate change, are increasing pressure over the world's natural resources. The need for regular and accurate monitoring of these resources has increased in parallel with rising global awareness and acknowledgement of the urgent need for innovative, measurable pathways to ensure sustainable management and development.

Monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management projects

Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) is a continuous management function to assess if progress is made in achieving expected results, to spot bottlenecks in implementation and to highlight whether there are any unintended effects (positive or negative) from an investment plan, program or project and its activities. The session will present the elements of an M&E system and discuss how the processes of planning and M&E make up the Result-Based Management (RBM) approach, which is intended to aid decision-making towards explicit goals.

Strengthening M&E for decision making and planning in the agriculture sector

The importance of monitoring and evaluation (M&E) of climate change adaptation has been highlighted at global level, including under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Paris Agreement. Simultaneously, adaptation M&E systems are beginning to emerge at the national level in the context of national planning and budgeting processes. This session will focus on how to develop M&E systems for adaptation planning in agriculture sectors.

Monitoring and reporting the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) indicators and the role of Big Data

The availability of high-quality, timely and reliable data to produce the relevant SDGs indicators and other statistics is key for the achievement of the SDGs. The results of Statistical Capacity Assessment for the FAO- SDGs indicators conducted in 2019 provide insights about member countries' national statistical systems with regards to their capacity to monitor and report the 21 SDGs indicators under FAO custodianship. From the results of the survey in the project target countries, it emerged the need to strengthen institutional coordination on data reporting and to develop new surveys/data sources. This session will focus on the methodology, compilation and interpretation of indicators. Benefitting from the international momentum around the use of Big Data in the development sector, the session will present the main concept related to Big Data, its use in the development sector and contribution to the achievement of SDGs and will discuss strategies to introduce Big Data into the production and dissemination of official statistics in target countries. E-learning course is already available on SDGs indicators.

2. Module structure

1. Monitoring and evaluation of natural resources management projects
   - Principles of Results-Based Management
   - Set of indicators to report on Monitoring and Evaluation data
   - Definition, key principles and concepts of Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)
   - Project analysis (situation analysis, needs assessment, strategy analysis)
   - Design of results in M&E. Difference and importance of internal and external evaluations
   - Logical Framework approach and theory of change
   - M&E data management, use and dissemination. The importance of Data Quality Assessment (DQA)

2. Strengthening M&E for adaptation planning in the agriculture sector

3. Monitoring and reporting the SDGs indicators and the role of Big Data
   - Overview of SDGs and Global Indicator Framework
   - How SDGs M&E processes can support national progress on sustainable development
   - Strategies to integrate SDGs M&E into national M&E systems
   - Setting up quarterly, annual and Life of Program (LoP) targets
   - Managing above and below deviations from set targets
   - Big data contexts and concepts: the foundations of the Big Data for the development

3. Learning objectives

Participants will familiarize with the principles of M&E for Natural Resources Management projects and the main concepts related to goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. They will learn about the methodology to compile and interpret SDGs indicators and will acquire skills on the integration of Big Data in the national statistical systems and how to use Big Data for development purposes.

SUPPORTED BY:

ITALIAN AGENCY
FOR DEVELOPMENT
COOPERATION