



# Environment statistics

The Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)'s work on environment statistics provides data to support evidence-based decision-making for sustainable agrifood systems. This area of work focuses particularly on monitoring critical aspects of sustainable agriculture in relation to inputs and natural resources use.

Collecting, analysing, interpreting and disseminating data and information on this topic contributes to FAO's fight against hunger and towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

## Area of work

FAO, through its environment statistics team, collects agri-environment data from countries and other relevant sources, including big data and geospatial information, using them as inputs to disseminate relevant global knowledge data products in FAOSTAT, and provides support to data users and national experts worldwide.

The data produced cover a range of topical domains, from inputs to agriculture such as pesticides and fertilizers, to land use and cover use and change, greenhouse gas emissions from agrifood systems and cropland nutrient budgets.

The team serves as focal point for SDG indicator 2.4.1 on productive and sustainable agriculture.

Data on fertilizers, pesticides and land use, irrigation and agricultural practices, and SDG indicator 2.4.1, are collected annually from national focal points in countries, through official FAO questionnaires.

## Core objectives

- > Collect, analyse and disseminate time series of environmental statistics relevant to food and agriculture at the country level, with regional and global coverage, for use in national and international monitoring, reporting and decision-making.
- > Support countries in their effort to strengthen national environment statistics relevant to food and agriculture and their capacity to monitor and report data within relevant international reporting processes, including the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Biodiversity Framework.

## Key outputs

### Data collection and dissemination

- > Update the FAOSTAT digital platform domains relating to:
  - Organic and inorganic fertilizers, pesticides, land use and land cover, nutrient flows
  - Agrifood systems GHG emissions
  - Temperature change

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FURTHER INFORMATION: [www.fao.org/about/who-we-are/departments/statistics-division/en/](http://www.fao.org/about/who-we-are/departments/statistics-division/en/)

- > Collect from countries and analyse data on SDG indicator 2.4.1 (area under sustainable agriculture) for international reporting.

### Methodological work

- > Continuously improve data quality through methodological development
- > Develop methodologies for statistical applications of geospatial/Earth observation data sources

### Capacity development

- > Provide country training to national experts on land use, land cover, fertilizers, pesticides and climate change statistics.



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