



Monitoring and Analysing Food and Agricultural Policies (MAFAP)

Policy impacts on farmers, consumers and value chains

An enabling policy environment is a key element for agricultural development, food security and poverty reduction in developing countries. However, government policy analysts and decision-makers often lack the capacity to generate reliable evidence of the impact of their policies on value chain actors, from farmers to consumers. Therefore, government policies and the effects they generate are often inconsistent with overarching food security and agricultural development goals.



From analysis to reform of food and agricultural policies

Since the 1970s, FAO has helped governments measure the effects of their policies on agricultural producers and other value chain actors. FAO Monitoring and Analysing Food and Agricultural Policies (MAFAP) starts in 2010. The programme assists the development of sustainable policy monitoring systems in developing countries. These systems aim to provide reliable information for evidence-based policy dialogue and decision-making at the national, regional and international levels. Such information is already being used by policy-makers to reform policies and address the challenges they face.

FAO has successfully partnered with government institutions and research organizations in several African countries, to create policy monitoring systems and to carry out a consistent set of policy and public expenditure analyses across a wide range of agricultural value chains (MAFAP phase I).

In close collaboration with the Secretariat of the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), FAO builds on the policy systems and

evidence created during MAFAP phase I to support governments to reform food and agricultural policies that are currently compromising incentives and productivity for agricultural producers, especially smallholders. MAFAP phase II (2014) consolidates and deepens its work in 17 countries, including recent projects in Bangladesh, India and Georgia.

MAFAP's four objectives are to:

1. Collect, assemble and use targeted, policy-relevant data (producer and wholesale commodity prices, access costs, public expenditure and policy decisions).
2. Consolidate and strengthen national policy monitoring systems to measure policy effects and identify current policy 'problems' that affect the competitiveness of agricultural producers.
3. Articulate policy options and assess respective costs and benefits to support suitable government reforms.
4. Engage national stakeholders in policy dialogue, as part of more inclusive policy reform processes.

MAFAP directly supports governments to assess and reform trade, inputs and market policies and public expenditures to subsequently achieve the high-level policy objectives stated in national agricultural strategies: Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP) investment plans; reform priorities articulated in the G8's New Alliance for Agriculture and Food Security Cooperation Frameworks, etc.



How MAFAP contributes to the FAO Strategic Framework

Through policy measurement, monitoring and analysis in eradicating hunger and increasing food security and in promoting more inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems, MAFAP's work directly contributes to FAO Strategic Programmes, specifically to: *Help eliminate hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition (SP1)* and *Enable inclusive and efficient agricultural and food systems (SP4)*.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

MAFAP is part of the work stream on *Sustainable markets, agribusinesses and rural transformations*. Find out more:

- Website - www.fao.org/in-action/mafap

Agricultural Development Economics Division

Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations