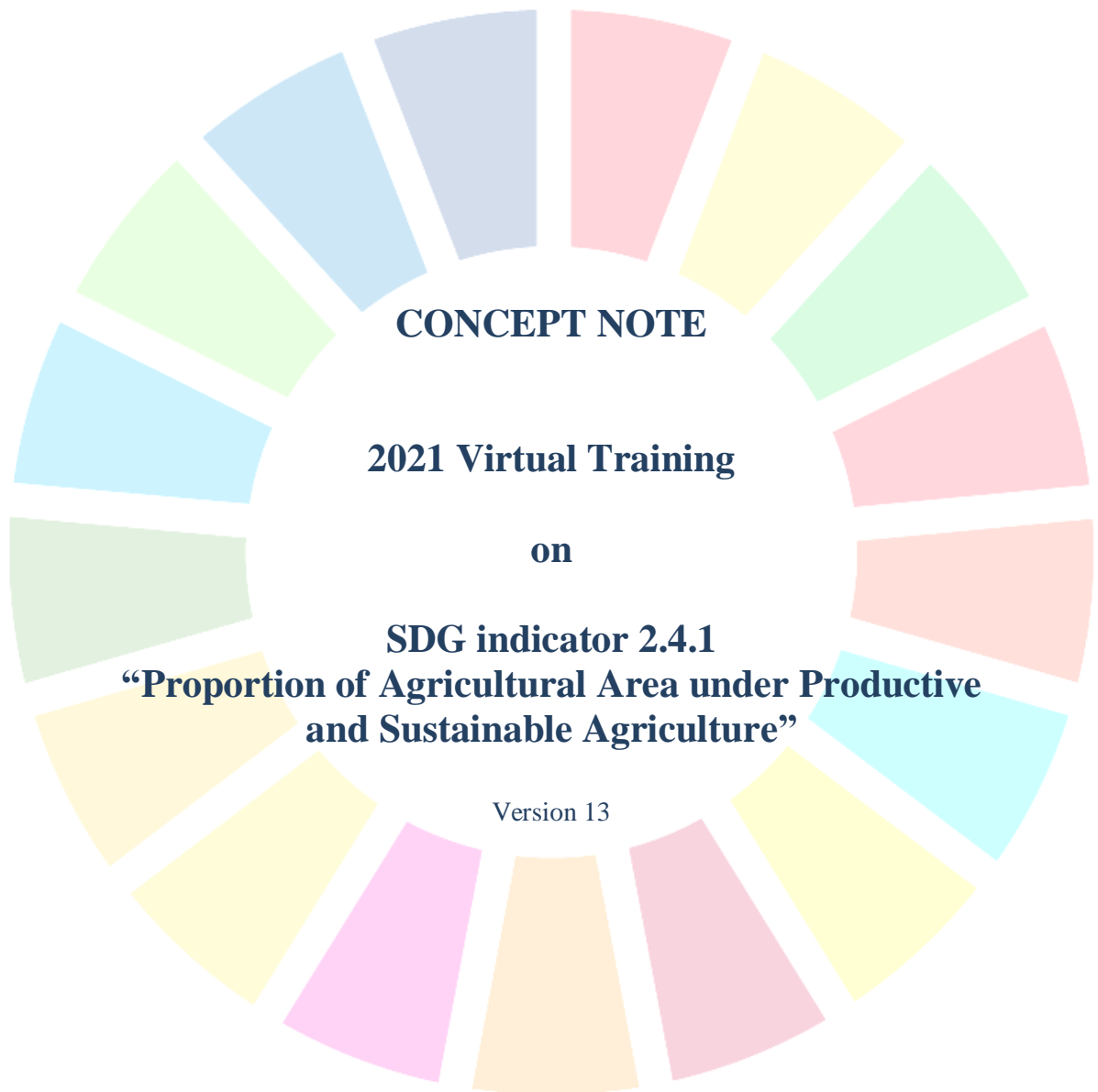




Food and Agriculture  
Organization of the  
United Nations



# Summary

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

### Target 2.4

*By 2030, ensure sustainable food production systems and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production, that help maintain ecosystems, that strengthen capacity for adaptation to climate change, extreme weather, drought, flooding and other disasters and that progressively improve land and soil quality.*

### SDG Indicator 2.4.1

*Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture*

$$SDG2.4.1 = \frac{\text{Area under productive and sustainable agriculture}}{\text{Agricultural land area}}$$

### Tier II

*An internationally agreed methodology does exist; but very few data points are available*

### Context

In September 2015, countries adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This Agenda will shape their development programmes in a transformational way for the next 15 years. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a set of 17 goals, adopted by all United Nations Member Countries, aimed at ensuring by 2030 a peaceful, prosperous and sustainable future for all. They call on all countries to act in a global partnership to end poverty and suffering, by adopting strategies that improve health and education, reduce inequality, and spur economic growth while safeguarding the planet.

The successful achievement of the SDGs is closely associated with countries being able to address sustainable development in a holistic and comprehensive way across sectors, and in their capacity to monitor progress against targets set by the 2030 Agenda.

Each Goal includes targets and indicators. Targets embrace the specific conditions that must be satisfied in order to achieve the relevant Goal. SDG indicators, such as 2.4.1, are tools used to measure concrete progress towards the achievement of SDG targets. Countries are tasked with monitoring and reporting on transformational change by means of SDG indicators. As the basis for policy decisions, effective monitoring offers countries vital information to design more effective initiatives, programmes and projects to better address development needs. Agriculture and natural resource management are at the heart of this process and as such are featured across almost all of the SDGs.

FAO serves as custodian agency of 21 indicators, working closely with countries to develop their capacity on data collection and monitoring, especially as it pertains to sustainable food and agriculture. In particular, several indicators have recently been reclassified as Tier II, which means that they now have an internationally recognized methodology and are ready for data collection for the first time. This include farm-level data needed for monitoring SDG indicator 2.4.1 - Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture (<http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/241/en/>).

The SDG indicator 2.4.1 is at the core of transformational change towards more sustainable and productive agriculture. The area under productive and sustainable agriculture captures the three dimensions of sustainable production: environmental, economic and social. The measurement instrument - farm surveys - will give countries the flexibility to identify priorities and challenges within the three dimensions of sustainability. Land under productive and sustainable agriculture will be those farms that satisfy indicators selected across all three dimensions.

Due to the worldwide impact of COVID-19 that has inhibited travel and thus in person trainings and workshops, FAO has already organized in 2020 three successful virtual trainings managing to train 29 countries, resulting in 298 national staff (8-9-10 September 2020: Afghanistan, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Nepal, Pakistan and Viet Nam; 22-23-24 September 2020: Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela; 13-14-15 October 2020: Armenia, Belarus, Burkina Faso, Malawi, Mali, Oman, Russian Federation, South Africa, Uganda, Ukraine and United Arab Emirates). FAO is now organizing other six virtual trainings to provide guidance on the SDG 2.4.1 methodology, data collection and reporting.

### **Objectives**

The overall objective of these virtual trainings is to provide (government officials responsible for monitoring SDG indicator 2.4.1) capacity development on the methodology, data collection and analysis relevant to sustainable food and agriculture and how to asses data gaps starting from available national and subnational (farm-level) information and associated reporting processes.

More specifically, a 4 half-days virtual trainings have been organized between April and November 2021 to:

- Provide technical training to build capacity of the national staff on SDG indicator 2.4.1 methodology, compilation and interpretation.
- Introduce the tools for data collection (including alternative data sources).
- Identify available national and sub-national farm level and other data useful to analyze sustainable food and agriculture.
- Understand the data gaps.
- Discuss the country plans to collect data on the indicator in the short/medium/long term.

- Introduce additional mechanisms/frameworks to measure and monitor sustainable agriculture.

The online trainings have been composed of participants from 10 or more countries and offered an opportunity to share good practices and experiences. Furthermore, the trainings provided participants a platform to discuss and share their strategies for overcoming the potential challenges regarding data collection, analysis and reporting of SDG indicator 2.4.1.

### **Expected Outputs**

These virtual trainings helped the counterparts evaluate availability of national and sub-national data needed to compute indicator 2.4.1, understand its measurement challenges, introduce effective data collection mechanisms with an ultimate aim to provide basis for designing improved data-driven policies. More particularly, the expected outputs were the following:

- Train the national staff on the methodology and tools for SDG indicator 2.4.1, so that its adoption at the country level and its reporting to FAO can be supported.
- Assessment of the current situation in terms data availability on the 11 sub-indicators of SDG 2.4.1 and to discuss on these data gaps can be bridged.
- Assessment of country data status in terms of available national statistics of relevance for reporting on sustainable food and agriculture in other international contexts (SDGs, Climate Change, FAO) and as possible proxies for SDG indicator 2.4.1.

These assessments will be instrumental in planning and developing an action plan for national data collection and reporting.

### **Participants**

The participants of the training included the National Focal points for SDG 2.4.1 (if already identified), as well as relevant officers from the National Statistical Offices, Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Environment and other agencies relevant to sustainable agriculture.

The virtual trainings have been organized in webinar mode and accommodated only 2 speaking participants (lead representatives) per country (more were welcome but only as listeners). This was to ensure an equal balance of active attendees from different countries and an easy management of the discussions during the training. The SDG 2.4.1 team resorted to the 2 “lead representatives” for discussion and questions.

### **Background Material**

All material (in English and several in Arabic, French, Russian and Spanish) can be accessed using the following link <http://www.fao.org/3/cb6372en/cb6372en.pdf>

- Methodology
  - Methodological Note (Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish)
  - SDG 2.4.1 example calculation 11 subindicators (English, French and Spanish)
- Data collection and reporting
  - SDG 2.4.1 Survey Questionnaire (Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish)

- SDG 2.4.1 FAO data collection questionnaire (Arabic, English, French, Russian and Spanish)
- Sampling Guidance for SDG Indicator 2.4.1 (English, French and Spanish)
- Enumerators Manual (English, French and Spanish)
- Instructions Manual on Data Entry Operations (English)
- Guidelines on Data Analysis and Reporting (English, French and Spanish)

Participants were advised to take the SDG indicator 2.4.1 e-learning course (following this link <https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=503> currently available in English, French and Spanish) *prior* to the virtual training to get familiar with the subject and terminologies. The e-learning course (2.5 hours duration) has been developed to facilitate understanding of the main concepts underpinning the methodology and to support countries in the analysis, data collection and reporting for SDG indicator 2.4.1.

### **Working language**

The working language of the virtual trainings has been English, with simultaneous translation in other UN languages (French, Russian and Spanish).

### **Agenda**

In total 6 virtual trainings have been organized for countries belonging to different regions, each training has been of a duration of 4 half-days (except for the one for the ESCWA countries which lasted only 1 half-day, and the one for the African region that lasted 3 half-days), with two sessions per day of about 1 hour and 30 minutes each. The dates and group of countries were as follows:

Dates	Group of Countries	Progress
27 April 2021	ESCWA countries (Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Somalia, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates)	Done
1-2-3 June 2021	Botswana, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Sao Tome and Principe and Zambia	Done
28-29-30 June - 1 July 2021	Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Japan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Palau, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Thailand and Timor-Leste	Done
13-14-15-16 July 2021	Bangladesh	Done
20-21-22-23 September 2021	Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guyana, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname and Venezuela	Done
2-3-4-5 November 2021	Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Estonia, France, Georgia, Lithuania, Poland, Spain, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom	Done

Exact timings has been establish in accordance with the time difference between Rome (Italy) and standard time of the respective region. Every day had to be considered as a commitment of about 3.5 hours, however, the general commitment was expected to be more.

The virtual trainings have been recorded.



## Draft agenda

SDG indicator 2.4.1			
Day 1			
Session	Description	Presenter/ Facilitator	Time Slot (in minutes)
Opening	Welcome address / Introduction / Objectives of the training	FAO – Arbab Asfandiyar Khan and Stefania Bacci	15
Session 1	SDG 2.4.1: Proportion of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture	FAO – Arbab Asfandiyar Khan	35
Session 2	Sub-indicators in the economic dimension	FAO – Arbab Asfandiyar Khan	40
<b>Break</b>			<b>30</b>
Session 3	Sub-indicators in the economic dimension (cont.)	FAO – Arbab Asfandiyar Khan	85
Session 4	Q&A and Wrap-up	FAO – Arbab Asfandiyar Khan	5
Day 2			
Session 1	Sub-indicators in the environmental dimension	FAO – Arbab Asfandiyar Khan	90
<b>Break</b>			<b>30</b>
Session 2	Sub-indicators in social dimension	FAO – Arbab Asfandiyar Khan	85
Session 3	Q&A and Wrap-up	All	5
Day 3			
Session 1	SDG 2.4.1 in the context of AGRIS and 50x2030	FAO – Flavio Bolliger (AGRIS team)	45
Session 2	SDG 2.4.1. Data collection tools (survey questionnaire and alternative data sources)	FAO – Arbab Asfandiyar Khan	30
Session 3	FAO SDG 2.4.1 data collection questionnaire	FAO – Stefania Bacci	15
<b>Break</b>			<b>30</b>
Session 4	Data reporting to FAO (with focus on FAOSTAT)	FAO – Nathan Wanner	45
Session 5	Findings of the first 2020 dispatch of SDG 2.4.1 FAO data collection questionnaire	FAO – Stefania Bacci	40
Session 6	Q&A and Wrap-up	All	5
Day 4			
Session 1	Indicator 2.4.1 Short/Medium/Long term expectations	FAO – Arbab Asfandiyar Khan	40



Session 2	Discussion on challenges in data collection and reporting on SDG indicator 2.4.1 and action plan to overcome it	All	50
<b>Break</b>			<b>30</b>
Session 3	Discussion on challenges in data collection and reporting on SDG indicator 2.4.1 and action plan to overcome it (cont.)	All	80
Session 4	Wrap-up, next steps, evaluation and closing (group photo)	FAO – Arbab Asfandiyar Khan and Stefania Bacci	10

### Evaluations

When joining the first zoom session, participants have been requested to register. Moreover, during the training, four evaluation quizzes have been administered to assess if the participants adequately acquired knowledge transferred during the virtual training. The results of quizzes have been shared real time, though *anonymously* during the sessions with all participants.

Finally, at the end of the four days training, attendees have been requested to evaluate the course again anonymously by filling in an online evaluation form. This will help the SDG indicator 2.4.1 team improving the structure and organization of the course for future trainings.

## **Annex: Guiding steps for conducting the trainings:**

This section summarizes the tools and processes that needs to be adopted to ensure a seamless experience during the virtual trainings.

### **a. Getting online**

A good internet connection is needed for participating in the virtual training. The online presence is for about 3.5 hours per day, which means that a large quantity of internet data (Megabytes) will be used. Participants that don't have an unlimited internet package, should check before and after each session the available Megabytes to ensure that it covers the training sessions.

In case the participants have video quality issues, the following actions are recommended:

- Close other applications that use the internet, especially those that play music or video.
- Cancel any file transfers in progress.
- If the above fails to resolve the issue, participants may need to increase the bandwidth. In this case they need to contact their Internet Service Provider (ISP) to get more information regarding the download and upload speeds and make request to the ISP accordingly.

It is strongly suggested:

- To use a PC/laptop instead of the mobile phone/Ipad/tablet for the virtual training as theoretical sessions could be complicated/heavy to follow on handheld devices.
- That participants are well settled, comfortable and with a clear vision of the monitor/screen.
- Have a USB headset with microphone and earphones.
- Have a webcam, one that is built-in to the computer or that connects to the computer via USB.

### **b. Communication application (Zoom)**

The virtual training will be organized using the Zoom software program (<https://zoom.us>). Briefly, Zoom is a videoconferencing software program compatible with Windows, macOS, iOS, Android, and Linux. It is noted for its simple interface and usability, specifically for non-tech people. Features include one-on-one meetings, group video conferences, screen sharing, plugins, browser extensions, and the ability to record meetings and have them automatically transcribed. Participants do not have to download the app if they are using Google Chrome or Firefox as they can click on a link and join from the browser directly. Note that Zoom is not compatible with Safari for Macs.

Zoom can be downloaded for free following this link <https://zoom.us/download>.

#### *System Requirements*

- An internet connection: Broadband wired or wireless (3G or 4G/LTE). The minimum bandwidth required is 600kbps (up/down), however, the recommended one is 1.5 Mbps (up/down). Participants can check their Internet bandwidth using the speed test available at this link <https://www.speedtest.net>.

- A microphone – one that is built-in to the computer or a USB plug-in or wireless Bluetooth.
- Built-in headset jack for laptop or desktop. Even if the laptop or desktop has speakers, participants are suggested to plug in thier headset so that the sound from the speakers does not cause an echo in the Zoom meeting. Any headset with a 3.5mm plug can be used.

#### *Supporting Videos*

- A 1 minute video that shows “how to join the meeting”:

[https://www.youtube.com/embed/hIkCmbvAHQQ?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc\\_load\\_policy=1](https://www.youtube.com/embed/hIkCmbvAHQQ?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc_load_policy=1)

- A 10 minutes video that shows the meeting controls (both for guests and host):

[https://www.youtube.com/embed/ygZ96J\\_z4AY?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc\\_load\\_policy=1](https://www.youtube.com/embed/ygZ96J_z4AY?rel=0&autoplay=1&cc_load_policy=1)

Be informed that FAO will be recording the training for potential future use. If participants have issues in showing their visage, they are requested to turn off the camera and inform the SDG indicator 2.4.1 team in advance.

#### **General Rules**

- Participants must settle themselves in a silent room/environment. Virtual meetings with several participants often result in noise issues that disturbs the trainer and/or whomever is trying to talk.
- Participants must mute themselves, always! and are asked to raise the hand virtually when and if they want to talk.
- Sessions will be interspersed with breaks (30 min every about hour and 30 minutes).