Goal 2

Target number: 2.4

Indicator Number and Name: 2.4.1 Proportion of agricultural land under productive and sustainable agriculture

Agency: FAO

Has work for the development of this indicator begun? Yes

Who are the entities, including national and international experts, directly involved and consulted in developing the methodology/and or data collection tools?

Development of this indicator is being conducted through an international multistakeholder process that is co-managed by FAO's group on Sustainable Agriculture and the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics.

The initial concept was endorsed in March 2016 and, since then, has been further refined through technical consultations, and expert meetings. There has also been an ongoing exercise to pilot the indicator in selected countries. Therefore those who have been involved in the process include technical experts, statisticians, country representatives, other international organizations, civil society and the private sector.

The methodology has already been presented to various bodies for peer review, including webinars with members of the IAEG-SDGs and the Scientific Advisory Committee of the Global Strategy to improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics.

What is the involvement of or how do you plan to involve National Statistical Systems in the development of the methodology?
As stated above NSSs have been involved throughout the entire process, including most recently in an expert meeting in April 2018 as well as the piloting of the indicator and questionnaire, which has been done through NSSs.

Please briefly describe the process of developing the methodology for the indicator
The first step of the process was the drafting of the metadata. Then a very detailed literature review was prepared to take stock of previous attempts to develop a similar indicator and similar practices to define sustainable agriculture.

A series of methodological consultations were conducted involving FAO staff as well as external experts, and the output from these meetings is leading to the preparation of a concept note. In the first half of 2017, critical issues from ongoing feedback were discussed at an expert meeting, which brought together a technical experts, statisticians from countries, and the international community. The revised document, which also incorporated feedback from IAEG-SDG members from the November 2017 meeting, was then presented at a webinar to the members of the IAEG-SDG.

The methodology is also being piloted in countries. The first stage of this process was a desk study. The next steps include a cognitive test of the questionnaire and extensive piloting in selected countries. Guidelines have also be prepared for country implementation.. Other related capacity development material, including an e-learning module, is being finalized.

Please indicate new international standards that will need to be proposed and approved by an intergovernmental process (such as UNSC) for this methodology.
This process will set an international standard/definition on how to measure sustainable agriculture and the methodology to do so.

When do you expect the methodological work on this indicator to be completed?
This is an ongoing process, but the methodological has almost been completed and piloting of the indicator is well underway. The indicator will be submitted to the IAEG-SDG in Autumn 2018 for reclassification.

Are data and metadata already being collected from the National Statistical System for one or more components of this indicator?
Yes

If yes, please describe:
This indicator has sub-indicators for each dimension (social, economic and environmental). The methodology is based on a farm survey as the main data collection instrument for all sub-indicators. A module has been designed that contains a minimum set of questions needed to collect information for this indicator. These questions can be integrated into existing farm surveys.

Alternative data sources may also be used. This approach generally works in countries that have well-established monitoring systems and that are able to produce quality information consistently over time.

How do you plan to collect the data?
The proposed data collection instrument is through a farm survey. A questionnaire has been designed that can be integrated into existing farm surveys in countries or can stand alone if one does not exist Alternative data sources may also be considered if certain criteria are satisfied:

- Respects the stratification (farm type, agricultural areas, etc.)
- Captures the same phenomenon as the proposed farm survey
- At least same quality as the farm survey
- Compliant with international/national standards and classifications systems internationally comparable
- Data available at the same level of territorial disaggregation as the farm survey
- Reference year and periodicity homogenous across the sub-indicators

If the indicator involves multiple components from different data sources, please describe how each individual component of the indicator will be collected here.
In order to avoid burden on countries, the methodology proposes using one data collection instrument, which is a farm survey.

Alternative data sources may also be considered to complement and/or validate farm survey data.

With what frequency is data expected to be collected?
SDG Indicator 2.4.1 measures progress towards more sustainable and productive agriculture. For many sub-indicators, it is likely that changes will be relatively limited from a year to another. It is therefore recommended that the survey be conducted every three years.

Is there a process of data validation by countries in place or planned for this indicator? Yes

If yes, please briefly describe:
Data will be validated at country level. As 'custodian agency' for this indicator, FAO will provide the technical support, both for data collection and for validation.

If you have any additional comments that you believe would be helpful to IAEG-SDG members in analysing the work plan and methodological development of the indicator, please provide them here:
The methodology will consider the need to capture information around several dimensions related to sustainable agriculture. The indicator will therefore be multi-dimensional, offering an objective and transparent way to combine metrics from the different dimensions into a single indicator.

(as of July/August 2018)