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**METHODOLOGY FOR COMPUTING AND MONITORING THE SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOAL INDICATORS 2.3.1 AND 2.3.2**

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Abstract

Target 2.3 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda aims to double, by 2030, “the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.” The progress in achieving this target will be monitored by indicators 2.3.1 and 2.3.2, which are the “volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size”, and the “average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status”, respectively. This paper informs on the statistical methodology for measuring progress in SDG indicators 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 approved by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (IAEG-SDG) in September 2018. The methodology entails three steps. First, the target population must be identified and selected, that is, the “small-scale food producers”. Second, the “volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size” must be computed. Finally, the “average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status” must be calculated. The second and the third of these steps are relatively straightforward, while the first step is complex, as it requires the adoption of an international definition of “small-scale food producer”. The IAEG-SDG has agreed, as proposed by FAO, to define small-scale food producers using a combination of two criteria, namely the physical size of the food producer, as expressed by the amount of operated land and number of livestock heads in production, and the economic size of the food producer, as expressed by its revenues. The definition sets thresholds using a relative approach, in which producers that fall in the bottom 40% of the cumulative distribution are considered to be ‘small-scale’. This definition and the associated method to identify “small-scale food producers” was submitted to member countries through a mechanism put in place by UNSD and endorsed by the Chairs of the IAEG-SDG. The paper also provides examples of the calculation for a hypothetical country, as well as results for a pool of countries in which micro data from convenient surveys was available.

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1. Introduction

Following the adoption of 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN Statistical Commission agreed on a list of 232 unique global indicators to track the progress of the 169 targets and 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). As the custodian agency of 21 SDG indicators, FAO is responsible for collecting, validating and harmonizing data to monitor the progress at sub-regional, regional and global levels, in order to inform the annual progress reports of SDGs, follow-up and review processes of the High-Level Political Forum.

Each Goal is composed of several targets. Goal 2 includes 5 outcome targets and 3 targets on “means of implementation”. Target 2.3, one of the outcome targets of SDG 2, aims to double, by 2030, “the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers, in particular women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, including through secure and equal access to land, other productive resources and inputs, knowledge, financial services, markets and opportunities for value addition and non-farm employment.” The progress in achieving this target will be monitored by indicators 2.3.1 and 2.3.2, which are the “volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size”, and the “average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status”, respectively.

The purpose of this note is to inform on the statistical methodology for computing and monitoring target 2.3 and measure progress in SDG indicators 2.3.1 and 2.3.2 approved by the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (IAEG-SDG) in September 2018. When the UN Statistical Commission agreed on the SDG monitoring framework, these indicators were classified as Tier III, as there was no harmonized methodology available to measure them. An international methodology for measuring them was proposed by FAO in the spring of 2017. Member countries were consulted on the methodology proposed by FAO in the fall of 2017. The methodology was further tested in the subsequent months, and adjusted by FAO on the basis of comments and suggestions received from member countries, until the present version was agreed in the IAEG-SDG in September 2018.

The methodology entails three steps. First, the target population must be identified and selected, that is, the “small-scale food producers”. Second, the “volume of production per labour unit by classes of farming/pastoral/forestry enterprise size” must be computed. Finally, the “average income of small-scale food producers, by sex and indigenous status” must be calculated.

From a conceptual standpoint, the second and the third of these steps are relatively straightforward, as they are based on a standardized approach. The first step, instead, is more complex, as it requires the adoption of an international definition of “small-scale food

producer”. This is potentially controversial, as there is a wide variety of definitions proposed and adopted over time in several countries.¹

Next section addresses the first of the three steps outlined above, by describing the definition of small-scale food producers adopted. Sections 3 and 4 describe the methods for computing SDG indicators 2.3.1 and 2.3.2, respectively. Section 5 discusses the possible data sources for computing and monitoring the two indicators. Finally, Sections 6 reports the results of calculation undertaken with available micro-data for a selected set of countries.

2. Defining and identifying “small-scale food producers”

The IAEG-SDG has agreed, as proposed by FAO, to define small-scale food producers using a combination of two criteria, namely the physical size of the food producer, as expressed by the amount of operated land and number of livestock heads in production, and the economic size of the food producer, as expressed by its revenues. These criteria are applied in relative terms.

In practice, small-scale food producers are producers who:

1. *Physical size*

- operate an amount of land falling in the first two quintiles (the bottom 40 percent) of the cumulative distribution of land size at national level (measured in hectares); and
- operate a number of livestock falling in the first two quintiles (the bottom 40 percent) of the cumulative distribution of the number of livestock per production unit at national level (measured in Tropical Livestock Units – TLUs); and

2. *Economic size*

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