



# The Food and Agriculture Microdata (FAM) Catalogue

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## What is the Food and Agriculture Microdata (FAM) Catalogue?

The Food and Agriculture Microdata (FAM) Catalogue is the corporate microdata dissemination platform of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). The overall objective and ambition of the FAM catalogue is to become the one-stop shop for finding micro datasets related to food, agriculture, nutrition and the other related domains relevant to FAO's mandate. Since its launch in July 2019, the FAM Catalogue has published over 1 233 studies, providing access to all the relevant documentation of the datasets and, in most cases, to their microdata.



## Why is it important?

- FAO and member countries increasingly rely on microdata for monitoring and evaluation, tailoring programmes and interventions, and monitor important trends, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- In addition, disseminating and promoting user access to micro datasets maximizes their value for evidence-based decision making by enabling open research and analysis.
- Sharing micro datasets also adds credibility and transparency to FAO's analytical work.
- Many donors require the dissemination of the collected microdata. Thus, the platform can serve as a repository to archive and disseminate microdata collected through FAO projects.



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## What types of study are documented and disseminated in FAM?

The FAM Catalogue comprises three broad categories of studies:

### Category 1: Studies submitted by FAO/internal data providers, through a data deposit system

- Impact evaluation surveys from the Inclusive Rural Transformation and Gender Equity Division (ESP), Food Insecurity Experience Scale data from the Statistics Division (ESS), Resilience Index Measurement and Analysis (RIMA) data from the Agrifood Economics Division (ESA), and Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (GSARS) pilot surveys.
- FAO/WHO Global Individual Food consumption (FAO/WHO GIFT) data from the Food and Nutrition Division (ESN), National Forest Inventories from the Forestry Division (NFO), and the Pastoralist data from the Animal Production and Health Division (NSA).

### Category 2: Studies submitted by external data providers via email

- Datasets from international organizations e.g. the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and the private sector e.g. Syngenta, through different collaborations and call for engagements.
- The data provider needs to sign a license to redistribute form, which defines the terms of agreement between the external data provider and FAO.

### Category 3: Metadata harvested from external, compatible platforms, linking datasets

- Surveys from National Statistical Offices and World Bank microdata catalogue.



## What is the publication workflow?

- Review of the key elements of the study (i.e. type of microdata, questionnaire, and relevant technical and analytical documents).
- Archiving of study in the FAM internal archive by data curator in Office of Chief Statistician (OCS).
- Anonymization of microdata by statistician/ data curator in OCS.
- Final validation and approval by data provider.
- Final approval by Chief Statistician to publish the study in FAM.



## What technology, standards and policies guide its operations?

- IT structure is based on National Data Archive (NADA), developed by the World Bank and used by many national and international organizations.
- Metadata structure is based on the Document Data Initiative (DDI) standard.
- A microdata dissemination standard, developed by OCS, explaining the protocol for Microdata and Metadata Curation and Dissemination, as well as, the Statistical Disclosure Control (SDC) procedures for protecting datasets.
- An application form for access to a licensed dataset was also developed to guide user requests and state the terms of use of data access agreement for users to access the datasets in FAM.