

**EU Results Framework Indicator Methodology Note**

1. Indicator name
<b>Agricultural and pastoral ecosystems where sustainable management practices have been introduced with EU support (ha)</b>
2. Associated EU Results Framework statement and primary SDG
SDG 2 - Zero hunger EU RF statement: Support sustainable agriculture and fisheries, especially for smallholders
3. Technical Definition
<p>The indicator refers to the total number of hectares where, with support from the EU, farmers adopted sustainable land management practices aimed at reverting soil erosion, enhancing soil fertility, increasing biodiversity, improving water management, reducing chemical inputs and maintaining healthy ecosystems.</p> <p><b>Agriculture and Pastoral ecosystems</b> can be identified as land and water resources utilised for agricultural production, including livestock, inland fisheries and aquaculture.</p> <p><b>Sustainable land and water management practices</b> encompass a vast array of agricultural techniques contributing to a better management of soils, water, bio-diversity and external inputs in order to improve, initiate or accelerate the recovery of land and water agricultural resources, thus fulfilling the productive potential of land, while enhancing resilience to the effects of climate change. Although non exhaustive, the main practices to be considered for this indicator include the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Agro-ecological practices</li> <li>• Climate-relevant agricultural practices</li> <li>• Rational use of mineral fertilisers</li> <li>• Integrated pest management</li> <li>• Integrated management of livestock production and health</li> <li>• Improved soil organic matter</li> <li>• Grassland development, improvement and rehabilitation</li> <li>• Management of crop rotation</li> <li>• Cultivation of green cover crops</li> <li>• Rainwater harvesting</li> <li>• Efficient irrigation (i.e. where water use is managed)</li> <li>• Agroforestry (land-use systems and practices where woody perennials are deliberately integrated with crops and/or animals on the same land management unit)</li> <li>• Sustainable inland fisheries and aquaculture practices</li> <li>• Conservation agriculture (combination of minimum mechanical soil disturbance, managing the top soil to create a permanent organic soil cover, and crop rotation with more than two crop species)</li> </ul> <p>Where activities are in direct relation to productive agricultural or pastoral systems -as covered by SDG 2- they should be reported under the present EU RF indicator. Where activities aim at SDG 15, i.e. the</p>

conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, they will be covered by EU RF indicator 2.23 <i>"Areas of terrestrial and freshwater ecosystems under a) protection, b) sustainable management with EU support"</i> .
<b>4. Rationale (including policy priorities and links to this indicator)</b>
<p>The increased degradation of natural capital in developing countries and the negative consequences on agricultural ecosystems of climate change are major factors affecting agricultural production. Fighting those trends requires sound and measurable actions to halt and revert the land and water degradation process.</p> <p>In the New Consensus for Development (2017), the EU and its Member States declare their commitment to supporting smallholders, including family farmers and pastoralists, to implement agro-ecological practices and actions to reduce post-harvest losses and food waste, as well as to protect soils, conserve water resources, halt, prevent and reverse deforestation, maintain biodiversity and healthy ecosystems, harness the potential of sustainable agriculture and soils for greenhouse gas mitigation, enhance resilience to climate change impacts and promote sustainable fisheries and aquaculture practices.</p> <p>Fostering innovation and research, in particular for climate change, is essential to improve agriculture and food systems. At the One Planet Summit in Paris in 2017, the EU and the Gates Foundation each committed EUR 270 million over 2018-2020 to work together on climate-relevant innovation and research on agriculture in partner countries. Agriculture plays a key role since this sector is central in many countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). Following France's lead, the EU is seeking to catalyse Member States and other organisations around the "USD 1 billion target" proposed by France in Paris.</p>
<b>5. Level of disaggregation and other reporting requirements</b>
N/A
<b>6. Data Sources (including issues on different definitions by source and level of availability of the data)</b>
EU intervention monitoring and reporting systems: annual and final reports from implementing organisations (governments, international organisations, non-state actors, etc), surveys, ROM reviews, evaluations, etc.
<b>7. Data calculation (including any assumptions made)</b>
<p>The indicator is calculated by aggregating all the hectares covered by EU support in line with the technical definitions stated above.</p> <p>The same area supported by the EU intervention(s) in successive years should only be counted once and particular attention should be given to avoid double counting.</p>
<b>8. Worked example</b>
In country X a four-year € 15 million conservation intervention is supporting 100 000 smallholder

farmers to adopt water harvesting among other soil conservation techniques, to help restore land with severe gully erosion and falling crop yields.

The farmers' land has recently been titled and, on average, the intended beneficiary farmers hold farm sizes made up of "four cells". The relevant land administration system calculates that this equates to approximately 0.5 ha. Of the 100 000 intended beneficiaries, only 30% have put at least one of the techniques into practice.

Therefore, the total benefited area would be  $100\ 000 \times 0.5 \times 30\% = 15\ 000$  ha.

9. Is it used by another organisation or in the framework of international initiatives, conventions, etc? If so, which?

Although the indicator is not part of any specific convention, organisations such as UNDP and CGIAR use it in a number of agricultural and climate-relevant interventions.

FAO's definition of 'Conservation agriculture' is also related to the definition given here.

10. Other issues

When reporting numbers, care should be taken with regard to the definition of an initial reference baseline.

There are two EU RF indicators linked to EU RF result statement "Support sustainable agriculture and fisheries, especially for smallholders". The present indicator refers to the number of hectares where sustainable management practices have been introduced with EU support while the other one reports on the number of smallholders reached with EU supported interventions aimed at increasing their sustainable production, access to markets and/or security of land tenure.