

Farm Level Indicators for New Topics in policy evaluation: Project intro

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Expert group on monitoring and evaluation, Brussels, 10th of May 2017





SDG's, COP21 (Paris' Climate change): new policy goals asks for new data



- European policies are (being) adapted:
 - Common Agricultural Policy: Cross Compliance, Greening
 - CAP Rural development: innovation (EIP Agriculture)
 - Nitrate directive
 - Water directive
 - Etc.
- Policy evaluation has a need for data on these topics

Indicator frameworks

- A wide range of international policy, economic and sustainability indicator frameworks exist:
 - Millennium development goals
 - FAO indicators of sustainable development
 - OECD Agri-environmental indicators
 - Eurostat environmental indicator framework
 - European Environment Agency indicators
 - IRENA project interactions between agriculture and environment
 - AE foodprint effectiveness of environmental schemes
- National initiatives

Data collection

- Collection of sustainability data still in its infancy
 - New farm return, FADN
 - Diredate (Eurostat)
 - National initiatives
 - Sustainability indicators in Dutch FADN
 - Irish data on triple P
 - Farmers business confidence in Flanders
 - Pacioli papers on other initiatives

Assessment situation

- Information needs on sustainability from private sector, government, NGO's and research
- Official agricultural statistics (slowly) adapt to new information needs
- No agreement on what the future data infrastructure at EU level should look like.
 - Extend FADN, link FADN to other administrative data or separate environmental data network
- Developments
 - Combining statistical and administrative data
 - Farmers often have to collect and provide data on sustainability and food safety issues (Global Gap, BRC, SAI initiative, cool farm tool etc.)

Objectives FLINT

- To demonstrate the feasibility of collecting policy-relevant data in different administrative environments
- To demonstrate how the new farm level indicators can be used to evaluate policies and improve the targeting of policy initiatives

Advisory board

European Commission

THE SUSTAINABILITY CONSORTIUM

european farmers

european agri-cooperatives

5 key questions of FLINT

- *What is desirable?* What farm-level data is needed for the CAP policy evaluation ?
- What is feasible in the value chain? Data-collection is costly and depends on the collaboration of farmers.
- What is a feasible pilot network? Data collection is tested in a pilot network with up to date ICT support for a European infrastructure?
- *What is useful?* Is the newly collected farm-level data really essential in policy evaluation?
- *What is acceptable?* What are acceptable scenarios for the future data-infrastructure in an era of tight budgets?

Why did we use FADN in the pilot

- Interest is at the farm-level
- Need multi-dimensional data source economic, social, environmental (& innovation)
- EU harmonised data
- Implemented annually
- Indicators must be credible
 - Objective, verifiable and empirical data
- BUT: where possible, link to existing data

Need for an Integrated data set

- Measurement of different sustainability indicators on the same set of farms
- Allows the analysis of the full chain from: Policy objective -> policy measure -> impact on farm -> farm management decisions -> up to: sustainability performance of farms
- Trade-off and jointness of performance on different sustainability measures as a consequence of policy measures

Foreseen Impact

- Consistent set of indicators and empirical testing of data collection in different administrative environments
- Newly collected data provides wide range of new opportunities for policy evaluation and scientific research
- Optimal data collection method in a sample framework,
 - administrative burdens for farmers will be kept to a minimum or even be reduced, compared to a situation of more statistical surveys and data collection by industry
- Involvement of agricultural sector
 - In order to have a feasible approach
 - Provides opportunities to improve farm performance

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