

Module 2

Agriculture data
country profile

Guide

Agriculture data country profile

This document is a learning resource for Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation program officers that provides background information on the data policy and a wider context for agriculture projects in specific countries.

Why complete an agriculture data country profile?

The objective of filling in a country data profile is to aid a broad landscape review of the main data and agriculture related laws, policies and their regulators across a particular country or region of the world, as well as of the relationship with state governments and insight into intellectual property laws.

The collation and analysis of such information will help:

- Flag any major legal or regulatory barriers affecting the use of agriculture data in projects.
- Identify any necessary cultural considerations when starting a new investment process in a country or region.
- Maximise the impact of investments made and ensure projects are designed appropriately.

What is included?

The country data profile includes five sections that provide a basis for understanding the landscape of laws, regulations, policies and technology related to data.

1. Data and technology – capacity and infrastructure
2. Wider political and technological trends
3. Data regulation and laws
4. Agricultural law
5. Related grants
6. Resources

This method has been validated as useful for the health sector. The questions have been inspired by a method the Open Data Institute used to review the legal, regulatory and policy context when putting together health data challenge prizes.¹

Who should complete it?

The country data profile can be completed by a program officer, grantee, the Foundation in-country team or it can be subcontracted to a third party.

How to complete it?

This guide outlines key questions to ask when exploring relevant data, and agricultural policies, key stakeholders and ongoing work in a specific country or region.

Collecting information related to each section may require a combination of desk research, engagement with in-country stakeholders and engagement with Foundation staff who have worked in the region before, especially if availability of information online is limited.

¹ The Open Data Institute (2020), 'Data challenge prizes for health: a Playbook'

Each section relevant to the investment should be completed. Suggestions of information sources and examples related to the situation in specific countries are included to help identify what to look for when answering each section.

It is important to ensure the date is recorded when completing the template, as key political context and laws might change over time.

Questions

Data and technology – capacity and infrastructure

This section aims to provide an overview of the capacity and infrastructure in place in the country relating to data and technology. Useful places to look for information include the latest news articles as well as engagement with stakeholders in-country.

1. What is this country's access to technology and internet like?
2. Is there existing capacity related to data management in this country? For example, the presence of tech universities, research councils and data scientists in general.

Wider political and technological trends

This section aims to provide an overview of the wider political and technological landscape that may impact the collection, use and sharing of data.

3. Has there been any recent political volatility? Could this volatility be linked to land and borders, therefore potentially impact agriculture data collection and publication? For example, protests and revolutions that change governments, or border clashes with neighbouring states.

4. Is there ongoing political tension? Could this tension be linked to land and borders, and therefore potentially impact on agriculture data collection and publication? For example, ongoing ethnic strife over internal borders.
5. Has there been any technology recently introduced to the country that could affect the agricultural data landscape? Have any technologies been replaced, or made obsolete or undesirable? For example, launching satellites or new data centre investments.

Data regulation and laws

This section aims to understand the general policy context. The goal is to cover the main data related laws, policies and regulators, the relationship between state governments, data licensing and intellectual property laws, and any insights into data rights, for example, individual rights to data, rights for data creators, rights for governments and rights for citizens.

Useful sources of information include official government websites, news articles, research publications, think tanks, the [DLA Piper Intelligence map of data protection laws of the world](#), and search engine results for keywords such as 'data protection law, 'agriculture data regulation', data protection enforcement' and 'agriculture data agreement'.

6. To what extent is there an open data policy or strategy for this country, including open data or data access?

7. Is the country a member of any international organisation, policies or frameworks that promote a specific type of data access, use and sharing? For example, the Nagoya Protocol on Access and Benefit Sharing.
8. What data protection laws apply in this country? For example, a Data Protection Act.
9. What other laws apply in this country that might affect the use of data and agriculture data in particular? For example, laws related to the Digital Economy Act, confidentiality and competition.
10. To what degree are data protection laws, and other laws that might affect the use of agriculture data, devolved, for example, to regions, states and cities? In some countries data protection law and enforcement is not devolved.
11. What organisations are responsible for enforcing data protection laws and other laws that might affect the use of agriculture data? For example, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) in the UK.
12. To what extent are data protection laws and other laws that might affect the use of agriculture data enforced? For example, in the UK, the ICO is fairly well regarded but is sometimes described as underfunded which might impact its ability to enforce the laws.

Agriculture law

The next section aims to gather agriculture specific information – any agriculture specific context that would need to be considered for a project. Depending on the scope of the country profile, the focus might be on agriculture in general or a specific aspect such as seeds or livestock. The goal is to identify the main agriculture-related laws, policies and regulators that may impact on the access, use or sharing of data and information.

Useful sources of information include official government websites, news articles and research publications, as well as interviews with key stakeholders.

13. What types of laws exist in this country that affect agriculture more widely, and any specific area the investment is looking into, and what organisations are involved?
14. Are there any upcoming regulations that will affect agriculture and any specific area the investment is looking into?
15. At a high level, what are the respective roles of the public, private and third sector in the agriculture sector?
16. Who is involved in or shapes the collection, use and sharing of agriculture data in this country? For example, the public sector, private sector or third sector.
17. Have there been any high profile failures or successes related to the collection, use and sharing of agriculture data?
18. Are there any developments, pressures or opportunities not specific to the sector that may affect the collection, use and sharing of agriculture data, and any specific area the investment is looking into?

Related grants

This section aims to provide an overview of previous initiatives in the country and any lessons learned. Useful sources of information include the **Agricultural Development** team at the foundation and grantees.

19. Are there any other grants within the portfolio that are funded in this location?
20. Are there any insights into what has worked or not worked in the past, including any previous projects?
21. Are there any current grants in this location, co-funded or funded outside of the Foundation?

Resources

Collect here any useful places to use when updating the country profile. Some resources include:

- Open Data Barometer
<https://opendatabarometer.org/>
- World Bank Indicators
<https://data.worldbank.org/>
- World Bank country pages
<https://www.worldbank.org/en/where-we-work>
- Internet World Stats
<https://www.internetworldstats.com/stats.htm>
- DLA Piper Data Protection Laws of the World
<https://www.dlapiperdataprotection.com/index.html>
- Network readiness index
<https://networkreadinessindex.org/>
- Data guidance
<https://www.dataguidance.com/>
- WIPO IP Portal
<https://ipportal.wipo.int/>
- State of Open Humanitarian Data report
<https://centre.humdata.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/StateofData2020.pdf>
- UNESCO Institute for Statistics: How much does your country invest in R&D?
<http://uis.unesco.org/apps/visualisations/research-and-development-spending/>

Data Sharing Toolkit



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datasharingtoolkit.org

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 **CABI** Data Sharing Toolkit



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