Task force on Principles and Metrics for Innovation in Sustainable Agri-food systems

The current pilot of the Principles ends on March 31, 2022. Guidance documents are undergoing changes during this time based on rolling feedback.

Glossary [January 2022]

Agri-food system – The Agri-food system covers the journey of food from farm to table – including when it is grown, fished, harvested, processed, packaged, transported, distributed, traded, bought, prepared, eaten and disposed of. It also encompasses non-food products that also constitute livelihoods and all of the people as well as the activities, investments and choices that play a part in getting us these food and agricultural products. In the FAO Constitution, the term "agriculture" and its derivatives include fisheries, marine products, forestry and primary forestry products.

> Sources: Report of FAO Council CL166 (2021). http://www.fao.org/3/nf693en/nf693en.pdf; Constitution of the food and agriculture organization of the united nations (1945). http://www.fao.org/3/x5584e/x5584e0i.htm.

Direct investment – In this context, direct investment refers to direct funding or other direct support (e.g. time or in-kind contributions) for innovation processes. *Excluded is funding or support for the broader enabling environment* for Innovation for Sustainable AgriFood Systems – for example funding for education, connectivity or other infrastructure.

> Source: CoSAI internal suggestion (2021).

Indicator – Indicator – A "quantitative or qualitative factor or variable that provides a simple and reliable basis for assessing achievement, change or performance" (ISPC, 2014).

> Source: ISPC. 2014. Data, metrics and monitoring in CGIAR – a strategic study. Rome, Italy, CGIAR Independent Science and Partnership Council (ISPC). 88 pp. https://cas.cgiar.org/sites/default/files/ISPC_StrategyTrends_Metrics.pdf

Innovation – Innovation refers to the process by which individuals, communities or organizations generate changes in the design, production or recycling of goods and services, as well as changes in the surrounding institutional environment. Innovation also refers to the changes generated by this process. Innovation includes changes in practices, norms, markets and institutional arrangements, which may foster new networks of food production, processing, distribution and consumption.

> Source: Agroecological and other innovative approaches for sustainable agriculture and food systems that enhance food security and nutrition. A report by the High Level Panel of Experts on Food Security and Nutrition of the Committee on World Food Security, Rome (2019). http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/user_upload/hlpe/hlpe_documents/HLPE_Reports/HLPE-Report-14_EN.pdf

Metric – Metrics represent the values on which indicators are built. These are computed by aggregating and combining raw data, for example, yield (harvest per hectare) or height for age. It is important to note that a metric can be an indicator if it is used to assess performance and decision making. Thus all indicators are metrics, but not all metrics are indicators (ISPC, 2014).

Source: ISPC. 2014. Data, metrics and monitoring in CGIAR – a strategic study. Rome, Italy, CGIAR Independent Science and Partnership Council (ISPC). 88 pp. https://cas.cgiar.org/sites/default/files/ISPC_StrategyTrends_Metrics.pdf

Metric for Innovation in Sustainable Agri-food Systems – A metric in this context is a standard of measurement, quantitative or qualitative, that is linked to at least one Principle for Innovation in Sustainable Agri-food Systems and measures outcomes or processes indicating to what extent these contribute to the sustainability of agri-food systems or not.

Source: CoSAI internal suggestion (2021).

Principle for Innovation in Sustainable Agri-food Systems – A principle in this context is a normative proposition guiding decision-making and work processes in agri-food-systems-related innovation systems (incl. investments in such) so that these contribute to the creation and/or strengthening of sustainable agri-food systems. Relevant examples of existing principles are listed in the Annex to the Terms of Reference for the Taskforce.

Source: CoSAI internal suggestion (2021).

Sustainable – A process is sustainable if it meets the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. Sustainability typically encompasses the four pillars of society, environment, culture and economy.

Source: UNESCO (2021). Sustainable Development. https://en.unesco.org/themes/education-sustainable-development/what-is-esd/sd

Other Definitions (do not need to be agreed in meeting)

Institutional innovation – Institutional innovations are new rules and ways of organizing the relationships between different actors in a system. They take place when people and organizations (actors) strategically mobilize others through network relationships in order to repair or replace institutions.

Source: FAO/INRA (2016). Innovative markets for sustainable agriculture – How innovations in market institutions encourage sustainable agriculture in developing countries. http://www.fao.org/3/i5907e/i5907e.pdf#

Social innovation – Social innovation is defined as the development and implementation of new ideas (products, services and models) to meet social needs and create new social relationships or collaborations. It represents new responses to pressing social demands, which affect the process of social interactions and is aimed at improving human well-being.

Source: Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy (European Commission) (2013). Guide to social innovation. https://ec.europa.eu/regional_policy/sources/docgener/presenta/social_innovation/social_innovation_2013.pdf

Measurement method – A measurement method is a set of activities to generate raw data (observations such as weight, height, plot size, etc.) that can be used to compute metrics. This can include modeling and the output generated from modeling.

> Source: ISPC. 2014. Data, metrics and monitoring in CGIAR – a strategic study. Rome, Italy, CGIAR Independent Science and Partnership Council (ISPC). 88 pp. https://cas.cgiar.org/sites/default/files/ISPC_StrategyTrends_Metrics.pdf

Sustainable Agriculture Intensification - Sustainable Agriculture Intensification" (SAI) is a term with many definitions and past controversies that goes well beyond the narrow concept of 'producing more food with less environmental damage'. Here, SAI refers to the transformative changes in agriculture and food systems that are urgently required to meet rapidly-increasing global needs for affordable, nutritious, safe and healthy food, while protecting and improving the natural environment and promoting resilient livelihoods and social equity.

> Source: CoSAI (2021). https://wle.cgiar.org/cosai/frequently-asked-questions