

Dataset Information:

Title	Land Use
Abstract	The FAOSTAT Land Use domain contains data on twenty-one land use categories and twenty-three categories of irrigation and agricultural practices. The data are collected via the FAO Questionnaire on Land Use, Irrigation and Agricultural Practices , based on FAO Land Use classification. The information in the Land Use domain is relevant to monitor sustainable and productive agriculture, forestry and fisheries activities at national, regional and global level. Statistics on agricultural land area are an integral component of SDG indicator 2.4.1. Data are available by country and year, covering up to 246 countries and territories, with annual updates. The current dissemination covers the period 1961-2020.
Supplemental	Disseminated data on forest land area (including sub-categories “Planted forest”, and “Naturally regenerating forest”) and forest carbon stock are sourced from the Forest Resource Assessment (FRA) process.
International Standards	The FAO Land Use classification is aligned with the UN System of Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA); the UN Framework for the Development of Environmental Statistics (FDES); and the World Census of Agriculture. It is furthermore consistent with the land use classes of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change for country reporting to the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC). A mapping between the FAO, SEEA, World Census of Agriculture and IPCC classifications is provided in the FAO Questionnaire. In terms of the 2030 SDG Agenda statistical processes, FAO land use classes Agricultural Land, Land Area and Forest Land provide inputs into the computations of SDG indicators 2.4.1 and 15.1.1, respectively.
Creation Date	1961
Last Update	2022
Data Type	Land use statistics
Category	Agriculture; Forestry; Fisheries
Time Period	1961–2020
Periodicity	Annual
Geographical Coverage	World
Spatial Unit	Country
Language	Multilingual (EN, FR, ES)

Methodology and Quality Information:

Methods	<p><i>Data sources</i></p> <p>Data are collected from FAO members through the annual FAO Questionnaire on Land Use, Irrigation and Agricultural Practices. Missing data may be sourced from national statistical yearbooks and other official government data portals. Supplemental information for further gap filling may be derived from national and international sectoral studies and reports, as well as from land cover statistical information compiled by FAO and disseminated in FAOSTAT.</p> <p><i>Forest land data</i></p>
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The [Forest Resource Assessment](#) (FRA 2020) data of “Forest area” and “Carbon stock (below and above-ground biomass)” as well as area values for forest sub-category items “Planted forest”, and “Naturally regenerating forest,” were used as input to produce the corresponding annual FAOSTAT Land Use domain data (1990-2020), as follows:

- Data taken directly from the FRA for years 1990, 2000, 2010, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019 and 2020.
- Data linearly interpolated using the years 1990, 2000, 2010, 2015, to obtain annual values for the periods 1991-1999; 2001-2009; and 2011-2014.
- Any missing data at the beginning or at the end of the time series were imputed by carrying backward or forward the nearest available data point.

Irrigated land

Data on “Land area equipped for irrigation” are reconciled with those published by AQUASTAT, FAO global water information system.

Organic agriculture

Data collected and disseminated by the *Research Institute of Organic Agriculture* (FiBL) are used to complement information on FAOSTAT items “Area certified organic” and “Area in conversion to certified organic” items.

Temporary crops

Data on the three subcomponents of “Arable land” “*Land under temporary crops*”, “*Land under temporary meadows and pastures*” and “*Land with temporary fallow*” are collected since 2001 and gap filled as follows:

- Relevant information is sourced from agricultural censuses and surveys;
- When one sub-component was missing and the other two were officially reported, it was computed as a balance;
- Incomplete time series for each sub-component were linearly interpolated from official values.

Additionally, for any given year, global shares of the three subcomponents are computed from official data and normalized to the corresponding area of Arable land of that year. Global shares are further used in gap-filling as follows:

- a) When all three sub-components were missing, the global shares are applied as such to the area of Arable land;
- b) When official or interpolated values for one subcomponent were available, the global shares are applied giving precedence to the global shares of *Temporary crops*, considered as the most important subcomponent, or alternatively to the global shares of *Temporary fallow land*. Values for the remaining subcomponent are filled as a balance.
- c) When only one official data point by subcomponent was available, the yearly net change of the global shares was first applied backwards or forwards to gap-fill the time series.

National Focal Points	The FAO Questionnaire is sent to National Focal Points in National Institutions, typically National Statistical Offices, Ministries of Agriculture or other relevant Agencies.
Data Collection Method	Land Use, Irrigation and Agricultural Practices FAO Questionnaire, http://www.fao.org/food-agriculture-statistics/data-collection/en/ , sent annually to 203 countries and territories. Last sent in Oct 2021.

Completeness The database covers information for 246 countries and territories. Reporting rates (percentage of questionnaires received with some data from the country over total dispatched) for the 2021 FAO Questionnaire on Land Use, Irrigation and Agricultural Practices were as follows.

Region	Response Rate
Africa	19%
Americas	38%
Asia	63%
Europe	90%
Oceania	25%
Global	48%

Imputation rate (number of imputations over total number of records) for this domain:

Region	Imputation Rate
Africa	70%
Americas	66%
Asia	60%
Europe	35%
Oceania	70%
World	60%

Useful Links <http://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data/RL>
<http://www.fao.org/forestry/fra/fra2020/en/>

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Statistical Database Terms of Use



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