



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Career and Work Opportunities at the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

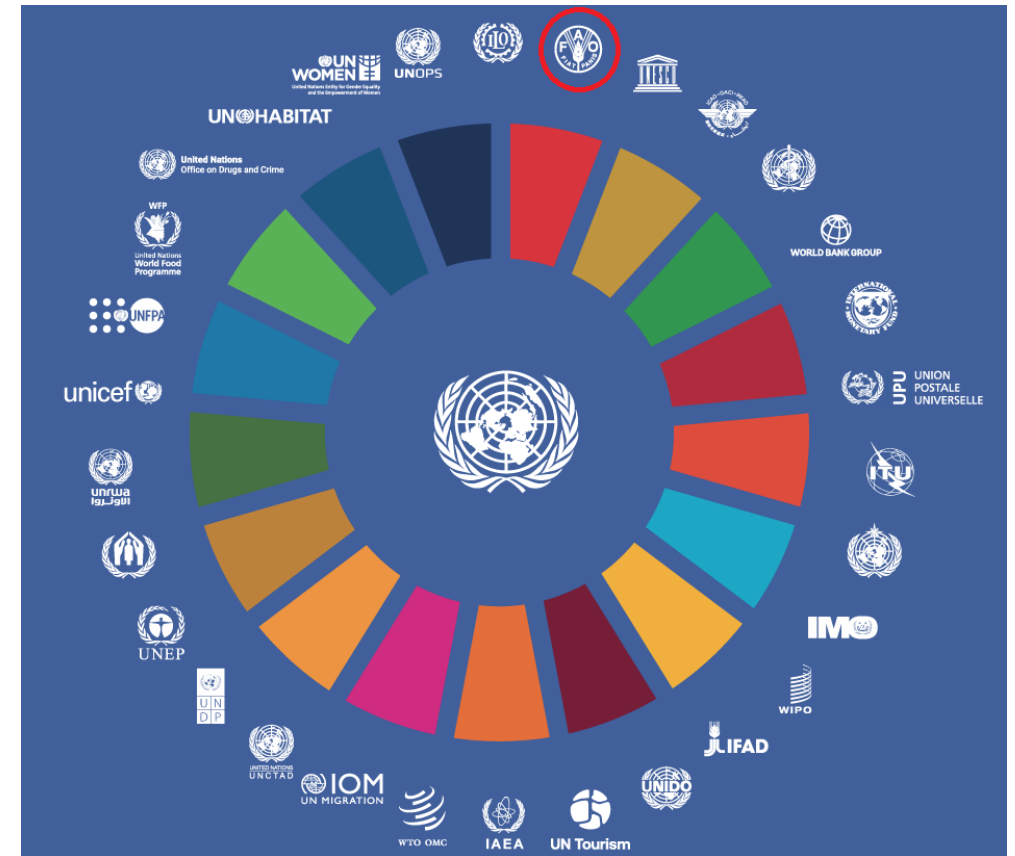
DSS Internship Day 2024

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Rome 2024-10-18

About FAO

- The Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) is a **specialized agency** of the United Nations (UN) that leads international efforts to defeat hunger (created in 1945).
- The UN aims to address global economic, social, cultural, and humanitarian issues through international cooperation, establishing autonomous specialized agencies (that work in coordination) to achieve these goals.
- FAO's goal is to achieve food security for all and make sure that people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.
- With 195 members, FAO works in over 130 countries worldwide.



FAO's main functions

- **Knowledge Sharing:** Collect, analyze, and disseminate data on food, agriculture, fisheries, and forestry.
- **Policy Assistance:** Support governments in developing and implementing policies for sustainable agricultural development and food security.
- **Technical Expertise:** Provide technical support and capacity building to help countries improve agricultural productivity and resilience.
- **Advocacy:** Advocates for the eradication of hunger and promotes global food security and sustainable development.
- **Coordination and Partnerships:** Facilitates global collaboration on food-related issues through partnerships with governments, UN agencies, and civil society.



FAO structure

Broadly speaking, FAO is structured in



Streams

- Partnerships and Outreach
- Natural Resources and Sustainable Production
- Economic and Social Development
- Corporate Logistics and Operational Support

Divisions

- Resource Mobilization (PSR)
- Forestry (NFO)
- Markets and Trade (EST)
- **Statistics (ESS)**
- ...

Specific Offices

- Evaluation
- Legal
- Innovation
- ...

Regional and Sub-regional Offices

- Africa
- Asia and the Pacific
- Europe and Central Asia
- Latin America and the Caribbean
- Near East and North Africa

Country Offices

- Colombia
- ...

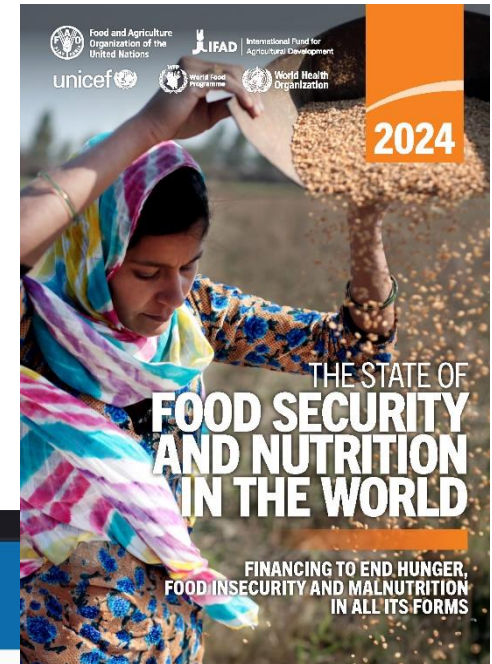
FAO Statistics Division (ESS) – Office of Chief Statistician

The ESS Division (Economic and Social Development stream) serves as the foremost authoritative source of reliable data, standards and methods on food and agriculture – as per Article I of the FAO Constitution – contributing evidence-based information for a world free from hunger.

ESS Mandate:

- Collect, analyze and disseminate agrifood systems data from member countries, generating statistics and briefs
- Work directly with countries to develop national statistical strategies, strengthen institutional and technical capacities and improve statistical systems
- Develop and promote international food and agricultural statistical standards, as well as methods and tools for collecting, analyzing and disseminating data

SOFI
Reports



FAOSTAT

https://www.fao.org/faostat/en/#data



Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations

FAOSTAT

Home Data Selected Indicators Compare Data Rankings Definitions and Standards FAQ Search an Indicator or Commodity

Data

DOMAINS DOMAINS TABLE

▶ Production	▶ Population and Employment
▶ Food Security and Nutrition 	▶ Investment 
▶ Food Balances	▶ Macro-Economic Indicators
▶ Trade	▶ Food Value Chain
▶ Prices	▶ Climate Change: Agrifood systems

ESS Areas of Work

Data Generation and Capacity Building

Agricultural censuses

Agricultural Survey

Crops, Livestock and Food Statistics

Environmental Statistics

Food Security and Nutrition Statistics

Social and Economic Statistics

Data and Statistical Governance

Data and Statistical Coordination

Data Quality

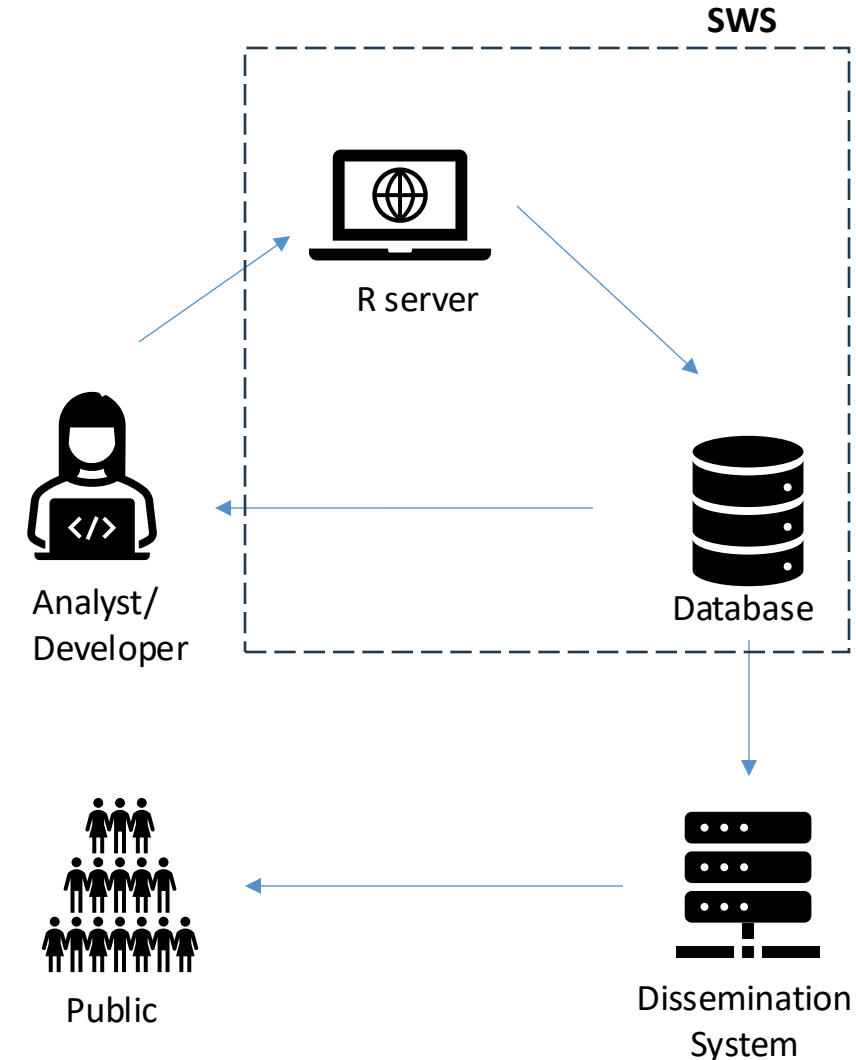
Dissemination and Outreach

Methodological Innovation

- Classifications
- Food Loss and Waste
- **Statistical Working System**
- **Data Lab for Statistical Innovation**

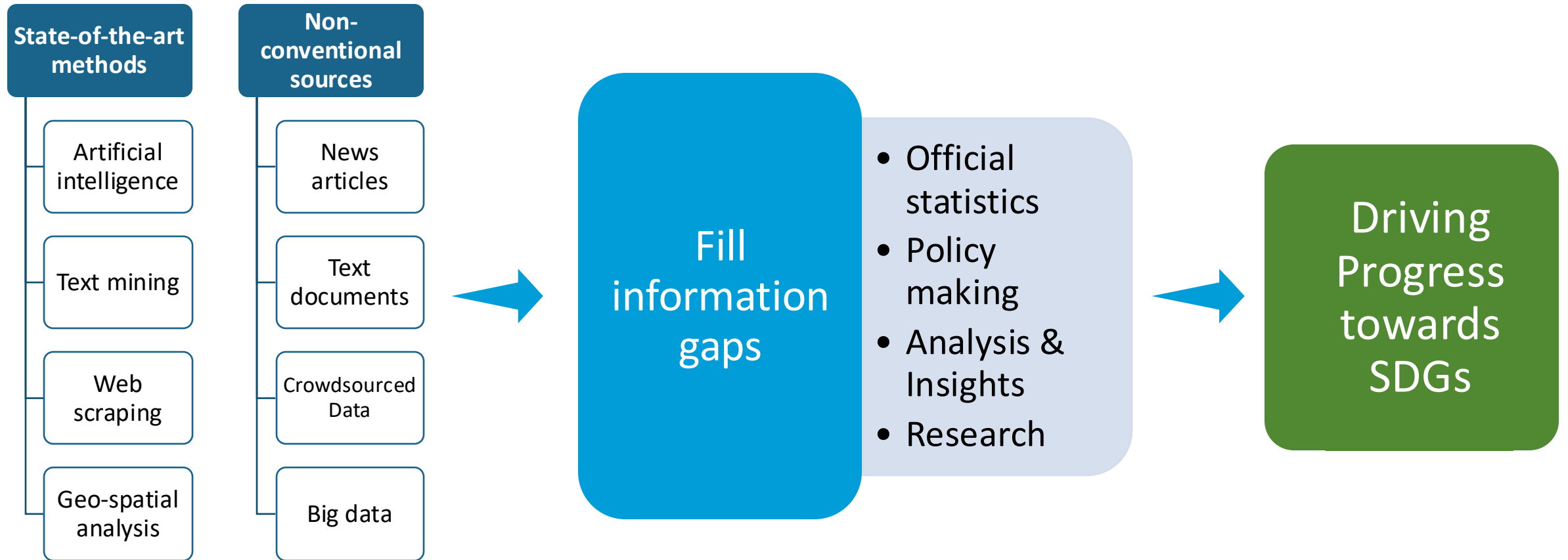
Statistical Working System (SWS)

- The SWS is a corporate system that supports data collection, processing and validation, metadata management, and quality assessment of FAO's main statistical domains in line with the Generic Statistical Business Process Model
- The SWS provides an end-to-end solution for inputting and storing raw data, performing automated statistical processes (e.g. imputation, validation, etc.), and producing data that are ready for dissemination
- In the backend, it has an R server where R routines with statistical procedures are run; once they finish, statistical outputs are saved to the database and can be accessed by users
- When the data is validated, it gets disseminated to the dissemination platforms (mainly FAOSTAT)



Data Lab for Statistical Innovation

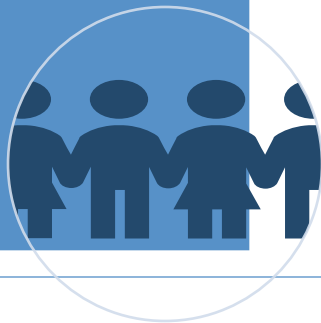
The Data Lab address challenges related to timeliness, granularity, data gaps, and automation of analysis for quicker insights



Data Lab Team and Areas of Work

- Data scientists and statisticians
- Expertise in text mining, econometrics, data engineering, and real-time analytics, ...
- Leverage cutting-edge methodologies such as big data analytics, machine learning, and software development

The Team



- Filling data gaps
- Early Warnings
- Analysis of documents
- Geospatial data

Areas of Work



Example of Data Lab's Activities



Early Warning Systems

- **Daily Food Prices Monitor:** integration between **Nowcasting Food Prices** and **Daily Food Prices Acceleration Monitor**.
- **Automatic news articles classification** into several topics:
 - **Topic Explorer Dashboard:** sentiment analysis by topic.
 - Data Lab Trends: **Free Search Engine** over 20 million news articles.



Text Analytics

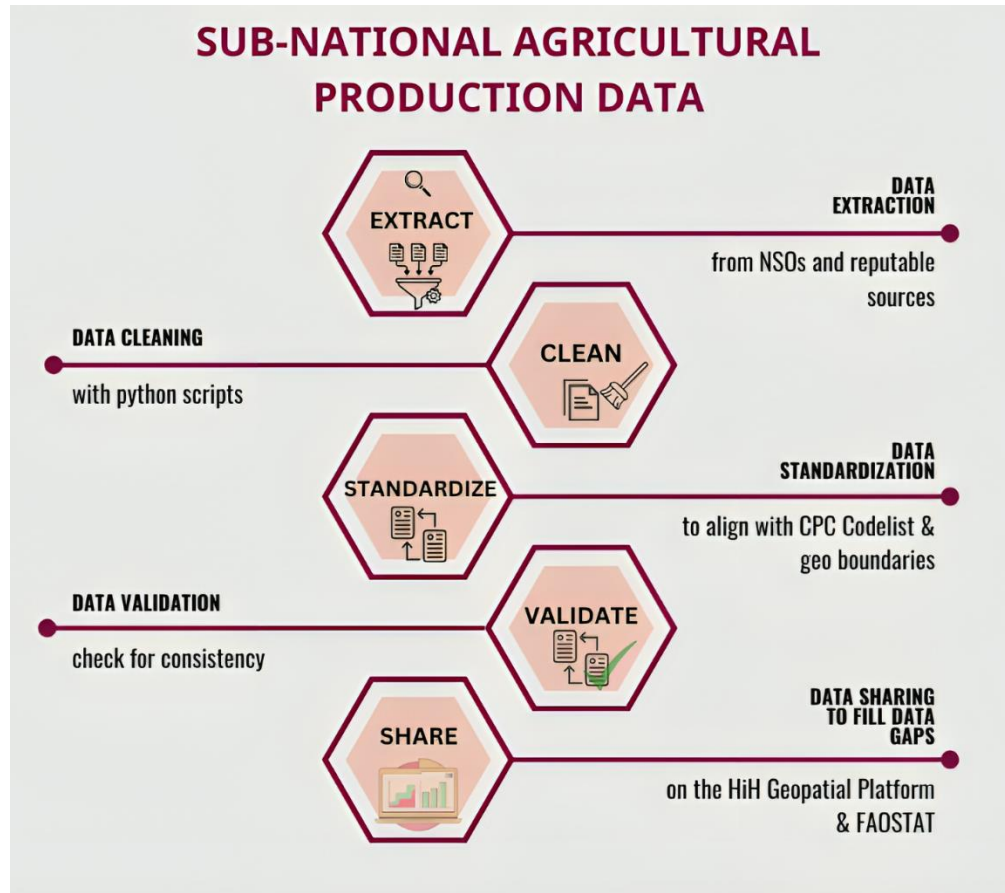
- Food Losses and Waste - **FLW database**
- **Technology-assisted review to extract automatically** metadata from **FAOLEX documents**.
- Food System Summit - **Pathways Analysis**
- **MetroPolicy:** measure use of statistics in policy documents
- **Official Development Flows analysis**



Hand-in-Hand Initiative

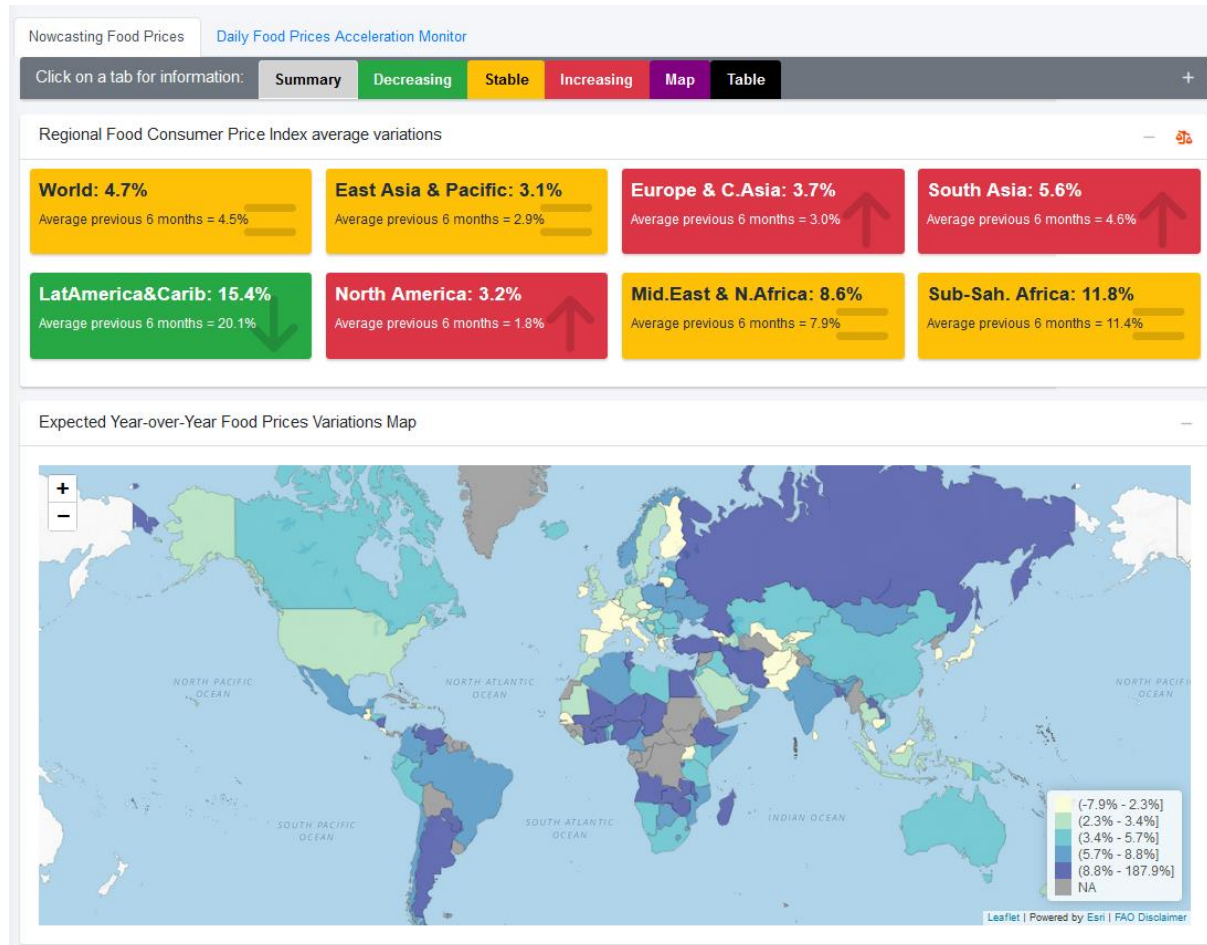
- Filling in data gaps:
 - Data scraped at subnational level.
- Vulnerability mapping:
 - Land cover mapping with **costless geospatial data acquisition** and **quicker results** than traditional approaches.
 - **Vulnerability indicator** estimated based on LC and economic indicators

Data Lab: Web-scraping Sub-national Agricultural data



The Data Lab collects agricultural production data by means of text mining to fill the data gap in contexts where little data are available.

Data Lab: Food Prices Nowcasting and Daily Prices Monitor



The Data Lab is nowcasting monthly food inflation and monitoring daily price accelerations using daily updated information to inform analysts and policymakers and warn about possible anomalous dynamics.

Data Lab: Food Loss and Waste Dataset

Year Range
1965 2000 2022
1965 1971 1977 1983 1989 1995 2001 2007 2013 2019 2022

Aggregation
WORLD

Aggregation Options
All

Country
All

Basket Items
All

Commodity (CPC 2.0)
All

Value Chain Stage(s)
All

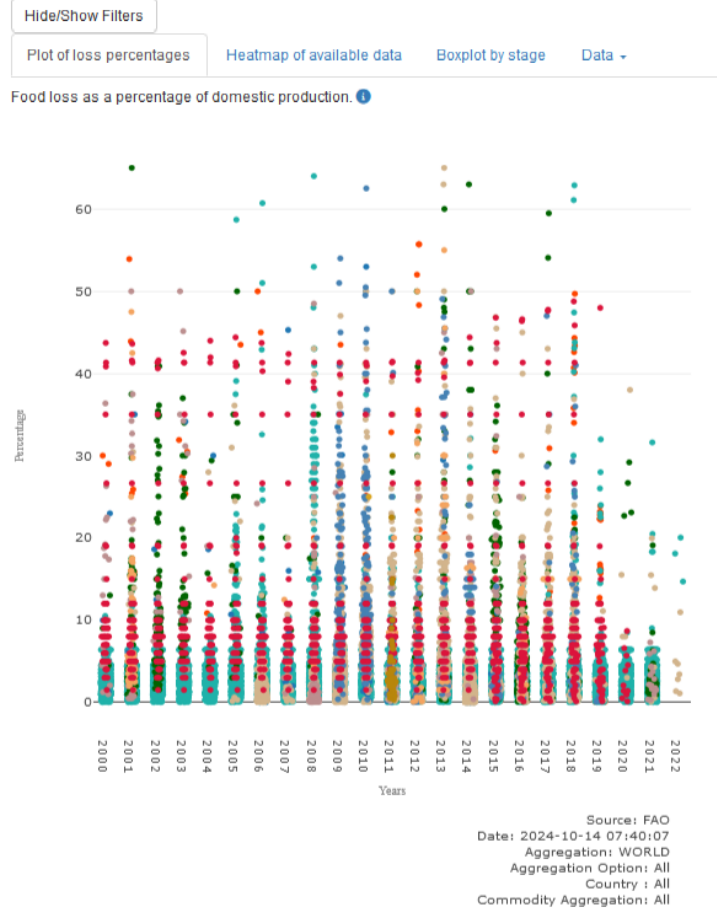
Method of Data Collection
All

Select to keep only top-10 SDG baskets

Select to show also groups and other broadly defined products

Commodity Basket Aggregation
Production Value- Top 10 by country (Default SDG)

[Download Data](#) [Plots](#)



The Data Lab scrapes the web to automatically identify openly accessible reports and studies measuring food loss and waste, and uses natural language processing (NLP) to extract data.

Data Lab: Food Systems Summit Analysis



Pathways Analysis

Region(s):
 Subregion(s):
 Country:
 Action Area(s):
 Theme(s):

General Overview
Pathway Overview
Key Elements

The General Overview tab quantifies and presents an overview of the Themes found across Pathway documents. The data can be filtered by regions, subregions and countries by action areas and themes. On this tab, Themes cover Action Areas 1 to 5, and exclude the Mean of implementation "Other".

Themes in National Pathways



Themes by country

Export

Country	Count of themes
Albania	32
Algeria	37
Angola	29
Armenia	27
Azerbaijan	25
Bahamas	10
Bangladesh	34
Belgium	27
←	
Total (distinct themes)	45

FAO Disclaimers

Using text mining tools to classify policy documents and gain insights into countries' current priorities and programmes regarding agrifood system transformations

Visit the
Data Lab's
Website for
More
Information!



Why Choose a Career at FAO?

Work environment

FAO offers a dynamic and multicultural work environment; staff from over 100 countries specializing in diverse fields provide a truly international workplace.

Professional Growth

FAO offers countless staff development opportunities, including group training, workshops and individual training courses.

Mobility

FAO has a staff mobility programme which enables and encourages staff to move around both geographically and to different functions within their duty station.



FAO's Atrium on 2014-10-17 (World Food Forum days)



**How Can I
Work in FAO**

Career opportunities

- **Volunteer Programme**
- **Internship Programme**
- **Non-Staff Positions (NHSR)**
 - Consultancy (COF-REG)
 - Personal Services Subscriber (PSA)
- **Staff Positions**
 - General Service (G)
 - Professional Staff (P)



**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE
ORGANIZATION
OF THE UNITED NATIONS**

Volunteer Programme

Eligibility

- **Nationality:** nationals of [FAO Members](#)
- **Education:** completed secondary school education
- **Languages:** candidates must have working knowledge of at least one FAO official language (usually English)
- **Age:** 18 or older
- **Skills:** adapt to an international environment, have good communication skills and be knowledgeable in the use of basic computer programmes
- **Residence/Visa status:** candidates should have appropriate residence or immigration status in the country of assignment
- **Family relation:** no family members employed by FAO

Note: FAO does not provide any remuneration to FAO Regular Volunteers

Internship Programme

The Internship Programme provides selected students, enrolled in an under-graduate or post-graduate degree programme or recent graduates, with the opportunity to supplement their academic knowledge with a practical work experience in a field related to the work of FAO

Eligibility

All as above, except:

- **Education:** candidates must be students enrolled in an under-graduate or graduate degree programme in a bona fide educational institution at the time of application, or recent graduates
- **Age:** between 21 and 30 at the start of their internship (i.e. internship should start before the candidate turns 31)

Note: FAO pays max 700 USD per month

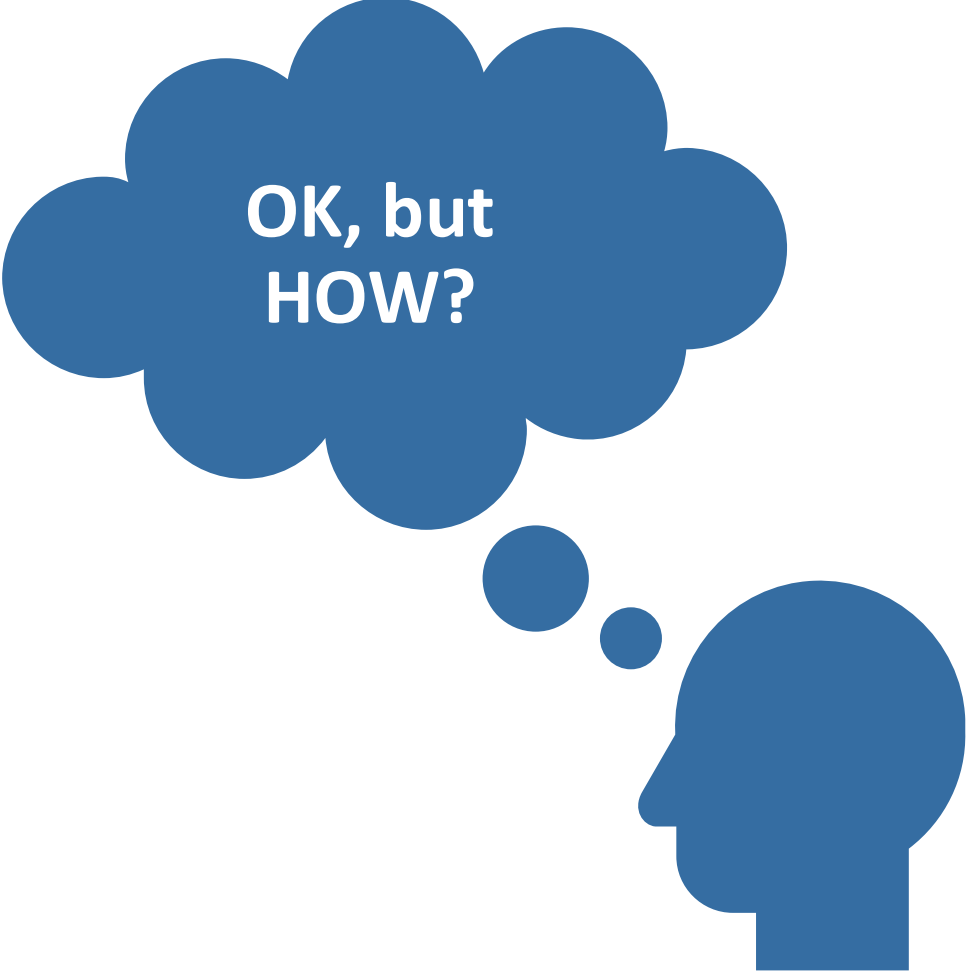
Staff and Non-Staff Positions

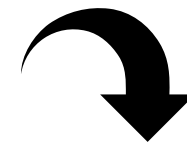
- **Non-Staff Positions**

- Consultants act as officials of the Organization, while PSAs do not
- Consultants' salary is (usually) tax-exempt
- Consultant need to have working knowledge of one UN language (usually English) and level B of a second UN language
- Non-staff are recruited when there is a need for a specific competency, not available at the moment in FAO

- **Staff**

- Officials of the Organization
- Can be temporary, fixed term and permanent term
- Full benefits (e.g., tax exemption, annual leave, retirement pension)

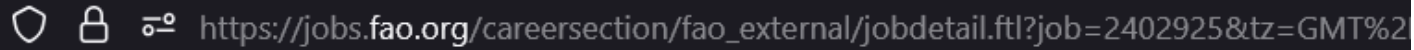




https://jobs.fao.org/careersection/fao_external/jobsearch.ftl

(or search "FAO careers")

Current Call for Interest for Volunteers in HQ

 https://jobs.fao.org/careersection/fao_external/jobdetail.ftl?job=2402925&tz=GMT%2

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT: 2402925

Call for Expression of Interest – FAO Regular Volunteer Programme for FAO headquarters (HQ)

Job Posting: 20/Sep/2024

Closure Date: **31/Dec/2024**, 11:59:00 PM

Organizational Unit: HQ

Job Type: Non-staff opportunities

Type of Requisition: Volunteer Programme

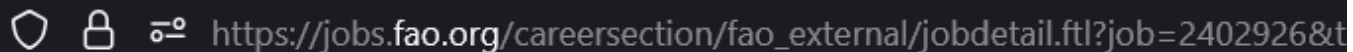
Grade Level: N/A

Primary Location: Italy-Rome

Duration: Up to a maximum of 6 months



Current Call for Interest for Interns in HQ

 https://jobs.fao.org/careersection/fao_external/jobdetail.ftl?job=2402926&t

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT: 2402926

Call for Expression of Interest – Internship Programme for FAO headquarters (HQ)

Job Posting: 20/Sep/2024

Closure Date: **31/Dec/2024**, 11:59:00 PM

Organizational Unit: HQ

Job Type: Internship

Type of Requisition: Internship Programme

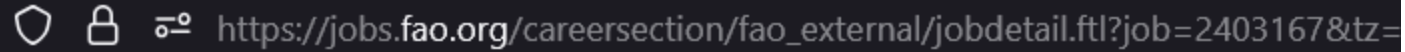
Grade Level: N/A

Primary Location: Italy-Rome

Duration: From 3 to 11 months



Example of current call for interest for non-staff in HQ

 https://jobs.fao.org/careersection/fao_external/jobdetail.ftl?job=2403167&tz=

CALL FOR EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST - VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT: 2403167

Economist

Job Posting: 11/Oct/2024

Closure Date: [25/Oct/2024](#), 11:59:00 PM

Organizational Unit: ESA - Agrifood Economics and Policy Division

Job Type: Non-staff opportunities

Type of Requisition: Consultant / PSA (Personal Services Agreement)

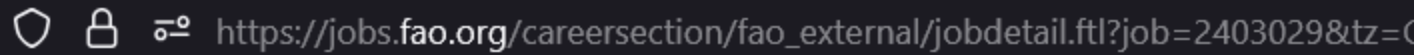
Grade Level: N/A

Primary Location: Various Locations-Variou Locations

Duration: Up to 11 months (renewable)



Example of current call for interest for staff in HQ



2403029

Statistician (Quality Assurance)

Job Posting: 30/Sep/2024

Closure Date: 21/Oct/2024, 11:59:00 PM

Organizational Unit: ESS

Job Type: Staff position

Type of Requisition: Professional

Grade Level: P-3

Primary Location: Italy-Rome

Duration: Fixed-term: two years with possibility of extension





**Good
luck!**



Thank you



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fao.org/datalab