

Farm Sustainability Data Network

12 February 2025
FSDN CAP network workshop

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1. Introduction

Objectives of the workshop

- **Improve networking and cooperation** between FADN/FSDN liaison agencies – CAP managers – data collectors – farmer's organisations – advisors – researchers
- **Inform on the transition** from FADN to FSDN
- **Showcase good practices** on use of the data for **CAP management and evaluation** at national level

Political context

- Strategic Dialogue recommendations on the future of EU agriculture
- Commission priorities for agriculture and food: strengthen the competitiveness, resilience and sustainability of the agricultural sector
- New approach to deliver on sustainability: Commission to propose an EU-wide benchmarking system in the agri-food sector

FSDN in the Strategic Dialogue

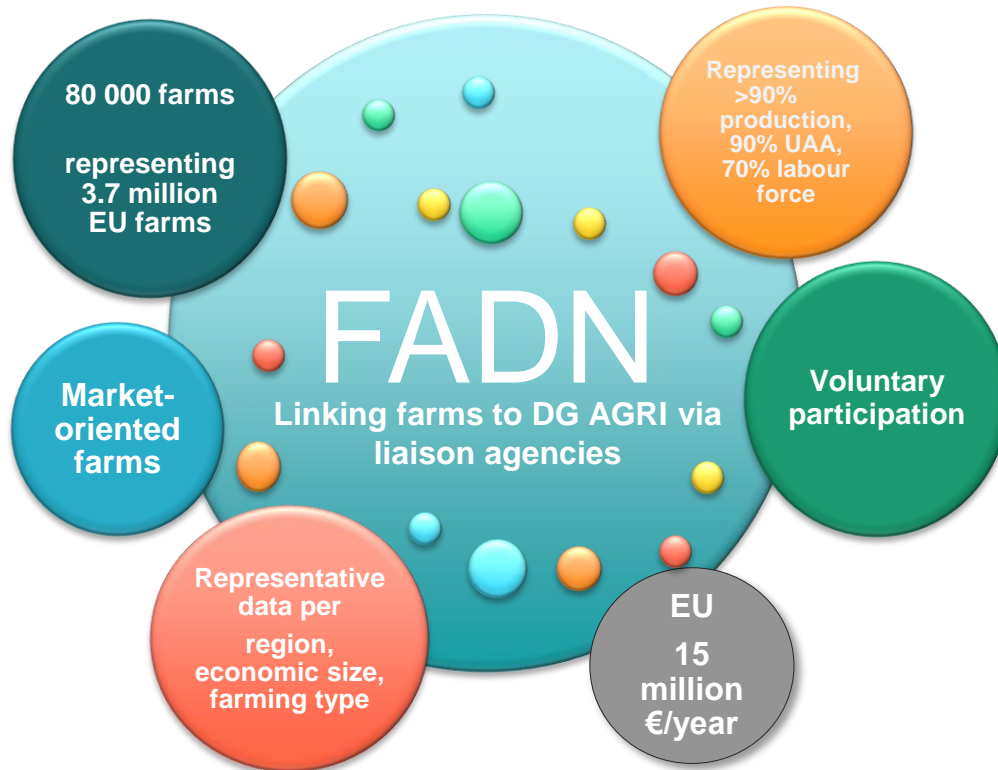
- *Where does FSDN come into play?* A new approach to deliver on sustainability includes a **benchmarking system** that harmonises methodologies, relies on scientifically sound indicators, dynamically and bottom-up designed and developed.
- FSDN should be used to:
 - Assess sustainability indicators
 - Test data collection methods for farmers / monitor sustainability
 - Develop a methodology for product-level assessment for the future



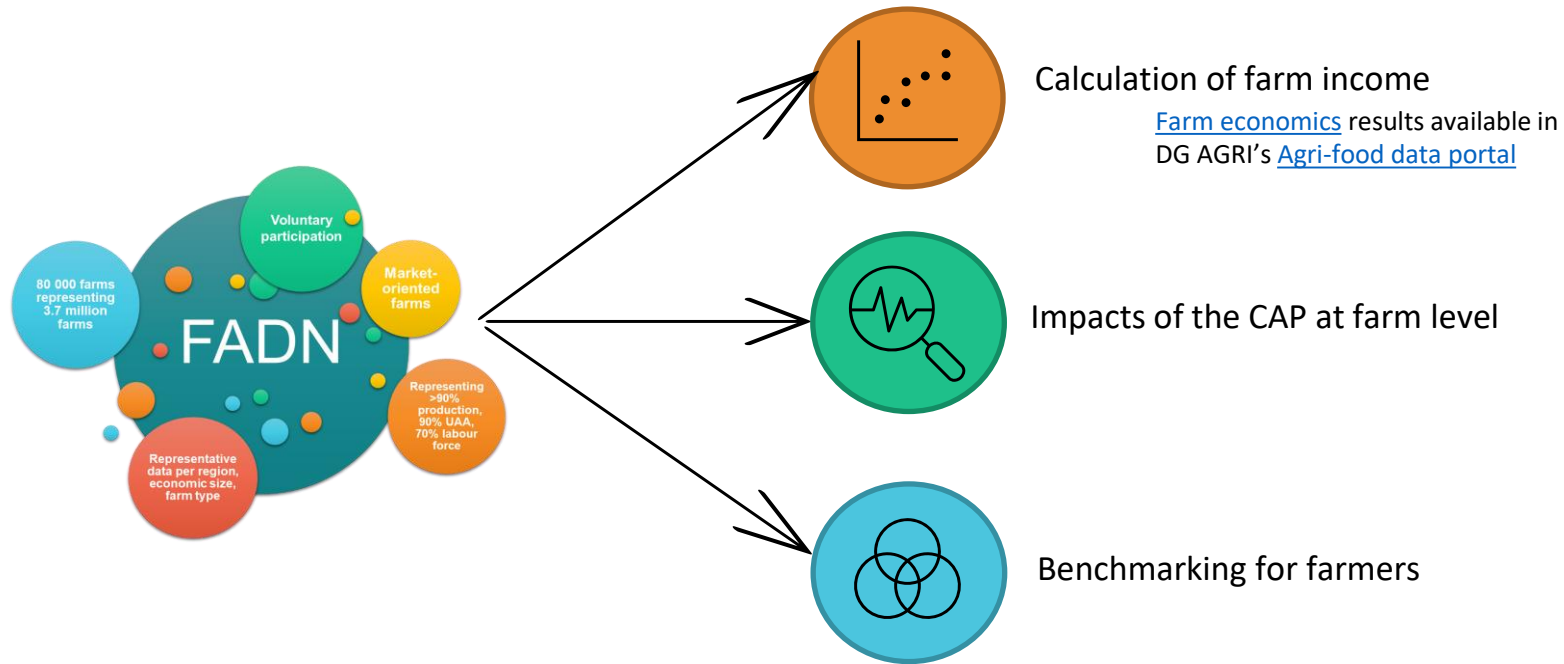
[Strategic Dialogue on the future of EU agriculture - European Commission](#)

2. The foundation: FADN

The Farm Accountancy Data Network, collection of microdata on a sample of EU agricultural holdings since 60-year



FADN, a unique farm-level dataset to measure **economic** performance, for evidence-based policy-making



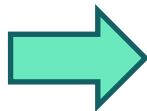
3. From FADN to FSDN

From FADN to FSDN - Farm Sustainability Data Network

Announced in the [May 2020 Farm to Fork Strategy](#)



FADN
Born in 1965



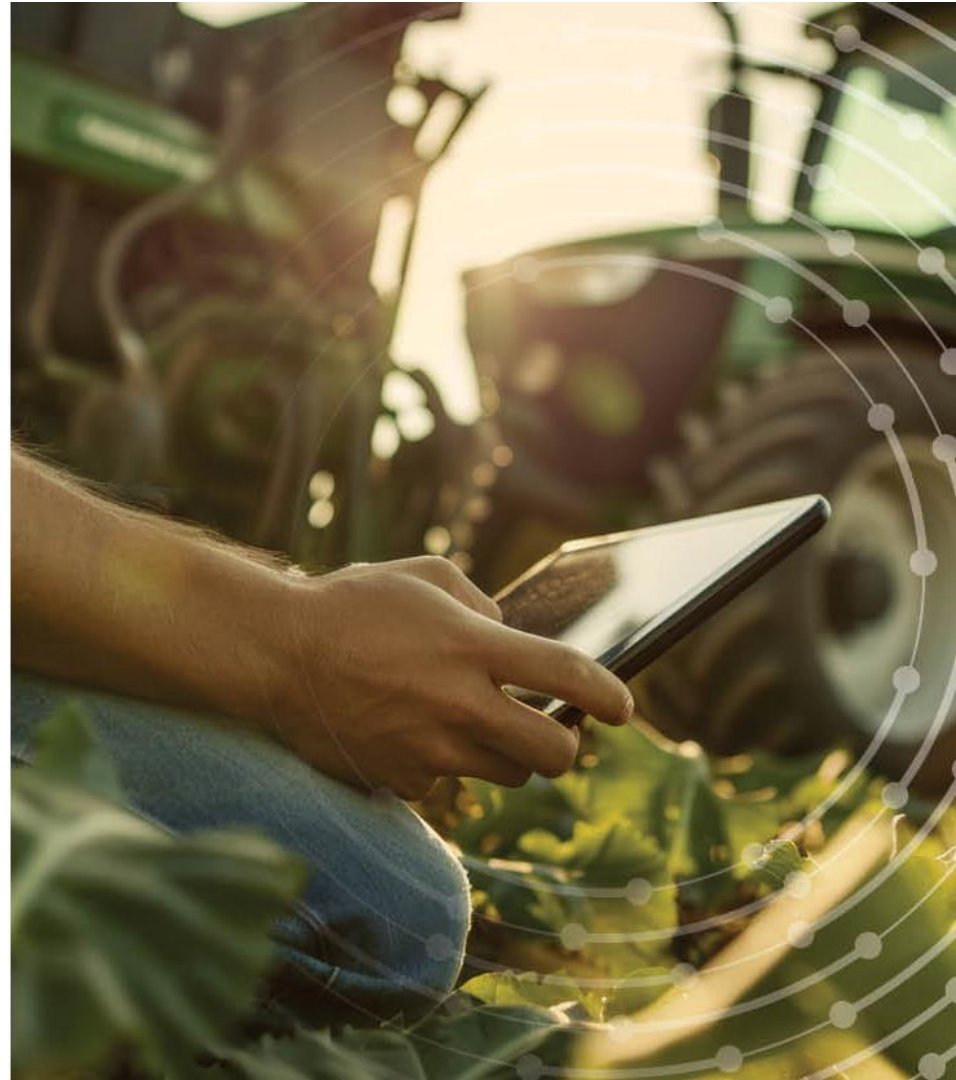
FSDN
Born in 2023

Objectives of the conversion

- Improve the **role of FADN/FSDN** for **policy analysis, research, evaluation and policy-making**.
- **Add variables** related to **environmental and social dimensions**, complement economic variables: data needed at **farm level**.
- **Introduce innovative and modern data collection systems and practices**, also through better interoperability – data sharing with other data sources.
- Improving the provision of advisory services to farmers and benchmarking of farm **sustainability performance**.

FSDN key achievements

- **Voluntary farmer participation maintained** - Member States develop an **incentive plan**
- **From accountancy to sustainability:** 42 topics classified by the 3 sustainability dimensions
- **Maximise the use of data already collected:** “**collect data once, re-use multiple times**”
- **Feedback** to farmers on their **sustainability performance**
- **EU financial contribution increased**
- **Data protection reinforced and clarified**



Advancing sustainability with FSDN: new metrics for farm-level insights from 2025



General information on the holding, Type of occupation, Assets and **investments**, Quotas and other rights, Debts/credits, Value added tax, Inputs, **Land use** and crops, Livestock production, Animal products and services, **Market integration**, **Quality products – Geographical indications**, **Membership in producer organisations**, **Risk management**, **Innovation and digitalisation**, Other gainful activities related to the holding, Subsidies, **Indicative share of off-farm income**



Farming practices, **Soil management**, **Nutrient use and management**, **Carbon farming**, **Greenhouse gas emissions and removals**, **Air pollution**, **Water use and management**, **Plant protection use**, **Antimicrobial use**, **Animal welfare**, **Biodiversity**, **Organic farming**, **Certification schemes**, **Energy consumption and energy production**, **Food loss on primary production level**, **Waste management**



Labour, **Education**, **Gender balance**, **Working conditions**, **Social inclusion**, **Social security**, **Infrastructure and essential services**, **Generation renewal**

Timeline of the conversion



Phasing-in period by topics

2025

- Current economic FADN topics (e.g. land use, outputs, inputs, assets, investments, debts, subsidies)
- Market integration
- Farming practices (partly)
- Biodiversity (partly)
- Nutrients
- Emissions
- Soil management
- Environmental certification schemes
- Animal welfare
- Social topics (labour, safety, social inclusion, services, generational renewal)

2027

- Innovation – digitalization
- Share of off-farm income
- Farming practices (partly)
- Biodiversity (partly)
- Water management
- Plant protection use
- Antimicrobial use
- Energy
- On-farm food/feed loss of production
- Training

FLEXIBILITY: 2 milestones for gradual implementation and adapt to the national context

- Member States asked for exemptions on specific tables until 2027-2028
- Revision clause to assess implementation by 30 September 2027

New FSDN tools – data sharing

Member States LEVEL

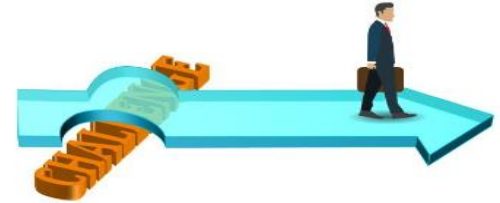
- **Compile FSDN information** from other national datasets (e.g. IACS including CAP interventions, livestock database)

EU LEVEL

- **Improve the analysis potential**, complementing FSDN data with 2 datasets at EU level
 - **Data for monitoring and evaluation – database for intervention and beneficiaries (DIB)**: individual dataset for CAP plans applications.
 - **IACS data sharing**: based on INSPIRE directive, geographical data (parcels geometry, land use/crops, organic, landscape features)
- Key points:
 - identify the **same holding** in the 3 datasets
 - New FSDN variables **complementary** to these datasets
- Timeline: DIB available in **2027** - IACS data sharing available in **2028**

Lessons learned - challenges

- After negotiation on Basic Act and secondary legislation, including feedback from stakeholders
- **Very different systems** across Member States
- **Farmer's participation is a key asset**
 - Limit the data collection effort → improve data sharing
 - Safeguard farmer's confidentiality
- **Need to improve cooperation**
 - Farmers and data collectors
 - FADN/FSDN liaison agencies – paying agencies – national statistical institutes – CAP managers
- Need to clarify **how the new information will be used**: analysis methodologies document (policy questions – possible analysis) and guidelines under development



Positive outcomes expected



- **Policymakers:**
 - **Streamlined definitions - better data quality:** more comprehensive data on economic, environmental, and social aspects.
 - **Enhanced analysis:** for better decision-making.
- **Data collection network (liaison agencies – data collectors – farmers)**
 - **building trust, ensuring data protection, enhancing cooperation** is essential for future success.
 - **Increased resources** to adapt the data collection system, apply new tools and incentivise participating farmers
- **Farmers: feedback** on farm performance, sustainability, and efficiency improvements.
- **Researchers:** streamlined access to disaggregated data

Improved analysis potential

Data at farm level: enhanced **multi-dimensional analysis**

- **Economic:** deeper insights into farm profitability and performance.
- **Environmental:** farm-level impacts and trade-offs on sustainability.
- **Social:** assessing generational renewal, gender balance, working conditions, and social well-being.

Examples will be presented during the workshop

4. Way forward

FSDN EU tool for feedback to farmers

Feedback on sustainability performance

- Tables and graphs based on FADN data, to be enriched with FSDN variables.
- Targeted to farmers/farm advisors and open to any of them.
- **Input data:** farmers will be able to identify themselves and compare their results to the average of the reference group (same MS, Type of Farming, Economic dimension + possible additional criteria).
- **Output results:** organized in 4 views on farm structure, economic, environmental and social data.



Emission calculator tool

- calculate emission balance at farm level, when FSDN data will be available

First version presented during Agri Food Days in December 2024: ready to test!

FSDN EU tool for feedback to farmers



FSDN BENCHMARK
AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Select input variables <

Year *

2022

Country *

EU27

Main farm activity *

All

Economic size class *

All

Currency *

EUR

National Currency Rate *

1

Reset form

Export PDF

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📘 Your results are compared with 77 020 (3 552 445 farms represented) similar sample farms

Structural information

Economic dimension

Environmental dimension

Social dimension

Structural information	Unit	Average farm	Enter your value	Benchmark	Performance
Standard output	Thousand EUR	100,5	<input type="text"/>	0%	Below 33% 33% - 66% Above 66%
Labour	Annual work units	1,57	<input type="text"/>	0%	Below 33% 33% - 66% Above 66%
Utilised agricultural area (UAA)	Hectares	36,55	<input type="text"/>	0%	Below 33% 33% - 66% Above 66%
Of which rented utilised agricultural area	Hectares	20,74	<input type="text"/>	0%	Below 33% 33% - 66% Above 66%
Livestock	Livestock units	30,08	<input type="text"/>	0%	Below 33% 33% - 66% Above 66%
Of which cattle dairy cows	Number of heads	5,08	<input type="text"/>	0%	Below 33% 33% - 66% Above 66%
Production of wheat	100 kilogrammes	316,32	<input type="text"/>	0%	Below 33% 33% - 66% Above 66%
Cultivated area of wheat	Hectares	5,24	<input type="text"/>	0%	Below 33% 33% - 66% Above 66%
Yield of wheat	100 kilogrammes per hectare	60,37	0	0%	Below 33% 33% - 66% Above 66%
Production of milk	Kilogrammes	38 222,73	<input type="text"/>	0%	Below 33% 33% - 66% Above 66%

Communication opportunities

To help enhance **acceptance**, **collaboration** and **trust** at all network levels:



- Communication activities and material
 - Updated [FADN/FSDN webpage](#): new Q&A on what is FSDN and how to participate
 - Communication material
- FSDN at the *EU Agri-Food days* in December 2024
- FSDN at *agricultural fairs*
 - Grüne Woche in Berlin 2025
 - Salon de l'agriculture in Paris 2025
- Conference "*From accountancy to sustainability: 60 years of the EU farm data network*" - to be confirmed



USEFUL LINKS ON FADN - FSDN

FSDN national liaison agencies:

<https://europa.eu/!nJVvc3>

FIND OUT MORE about the FSDN:

https://agriculture.ec.europa.eu/data-and-analysis/farm-structures-and-economics/fsdn_en

FSDN Leaflet

- [English version](#)
- [German version](#)
- [French version](#)



Thank you!