

# OECD perspective on challenges of measuring social sustainability

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# Outline


- Social issues in agriculture
- Data limitation and gaps: examples from OECD countries
- The challenges of measuring social sustainability
- OECD Farm-Level Analysis Network (FLAN)



# Social issues in agriculture



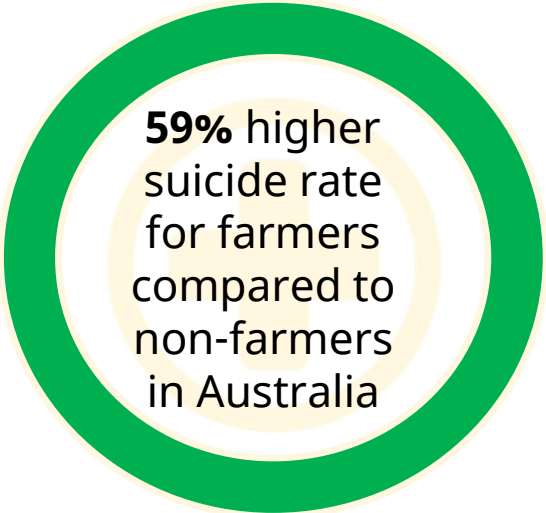
# Are social issues in agriculture becoming more prominent?



**45%** of Swiss female farm family workers are unpaid



**50%** of agr work have work-related injuries & diseases in UK



**59%** higher suicide rate for farmers compared to non-farmers in Australia



African American net farm income is **10%** of the average of other farms



# What is social sustainability? The OECD Wellbeing Approach

## Material conditions



Income and  
wealth



Work and Job  
Quality



Housing

## Quality of Life



Health



Safety



Knowledge and Skills



Work-life Balance



Environmental Quality



Social Connections



Subjective Well-being



Civic Engagement

# Tackling social issues in agriculture



No Consensus on widely Shared Social Issues



Social Issues are Context and Place Specific & involve many Stakeholders



Poor Measurement & Understanding of Social Issues (e.g., DATA GAPS)



Need for policies Beyond Traditional Sectoral Programmes



# Data limitation and gaps: examples from OECD countries



# Ireland: high levels of stress due to hard work under challenging conditions

A supplementary survey on occupational stress added to the core survey of the Teagasc National Farm Survey (NFS) posed questions to determine stress.



## Data Limitations and Gaps

- One-time data collection limits the analysis;
- Difficulties with surveying sensitive questions on personal health and social relations
- Mental illness may be underreported due to stigma
- Collected data have limited granular basic information (e.g., gender)





# Canada: indigenous people face barriers to work in agriculture



The Canadian government has been collecting data on indigenous involvement in agriculture, e.g., the Census of Population and the Census of Agriculture.

## Data Limitations and Gaps

- Census data relies on self identification
- Census data does not cover some of the barriers faced by Indigenous producers
- Indigenous food production activities may not fit the traditional definition of agriculture: e.g., harvesting wild plants and animals



# Japan: creating community and social capital

The Census of Agriculture and Forestry in Japan monitors a payment scheme for collective engagement of local stakeholders, collecting “community-level data”

## Data Limitations and Gaps

- Need for Comparable Statistics AND
- Granular data at the subnational level for rural areas with different situations and degrees of rurality
- Quantitative measurement of social capital are rare

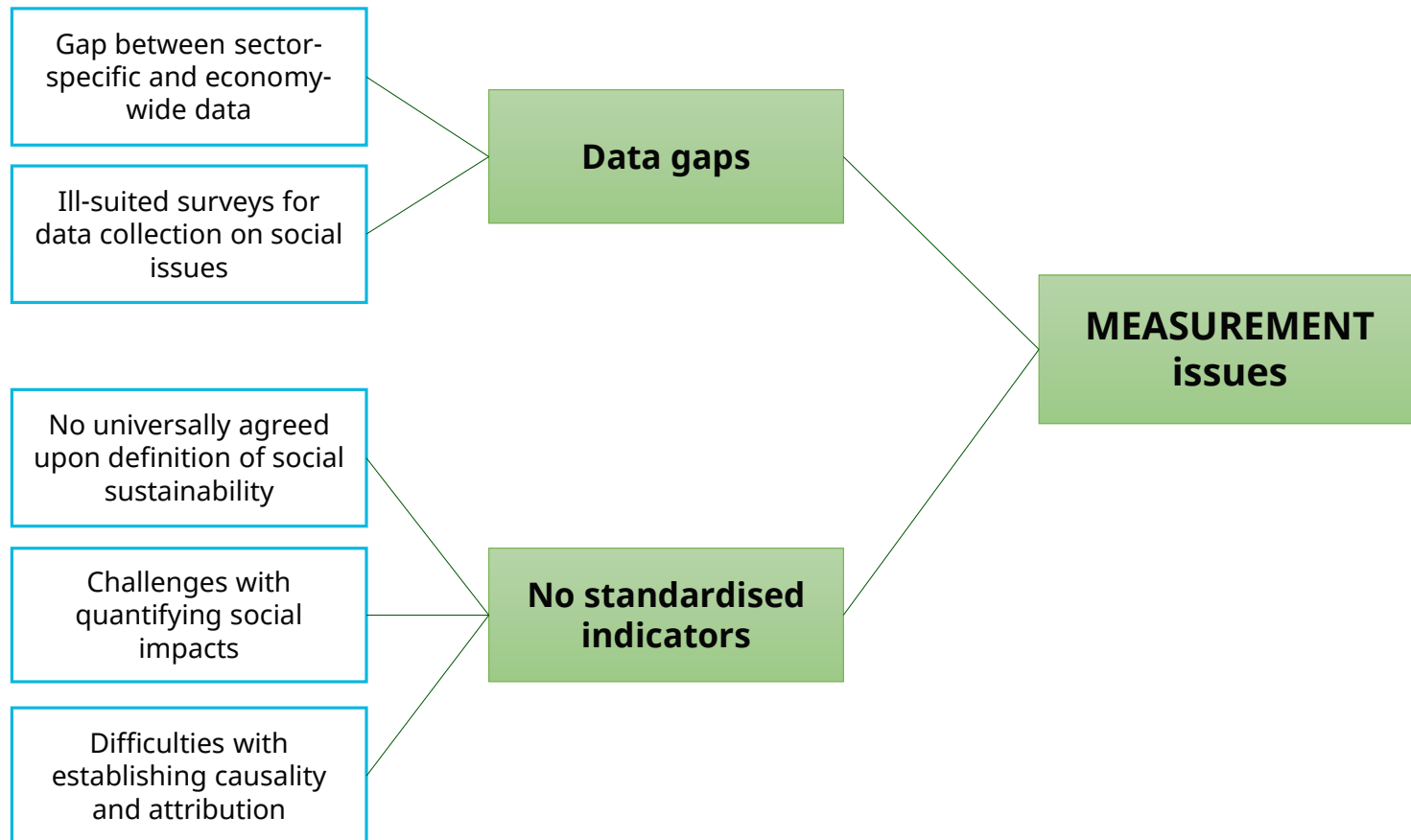




# The challenges of measuring social sustainability

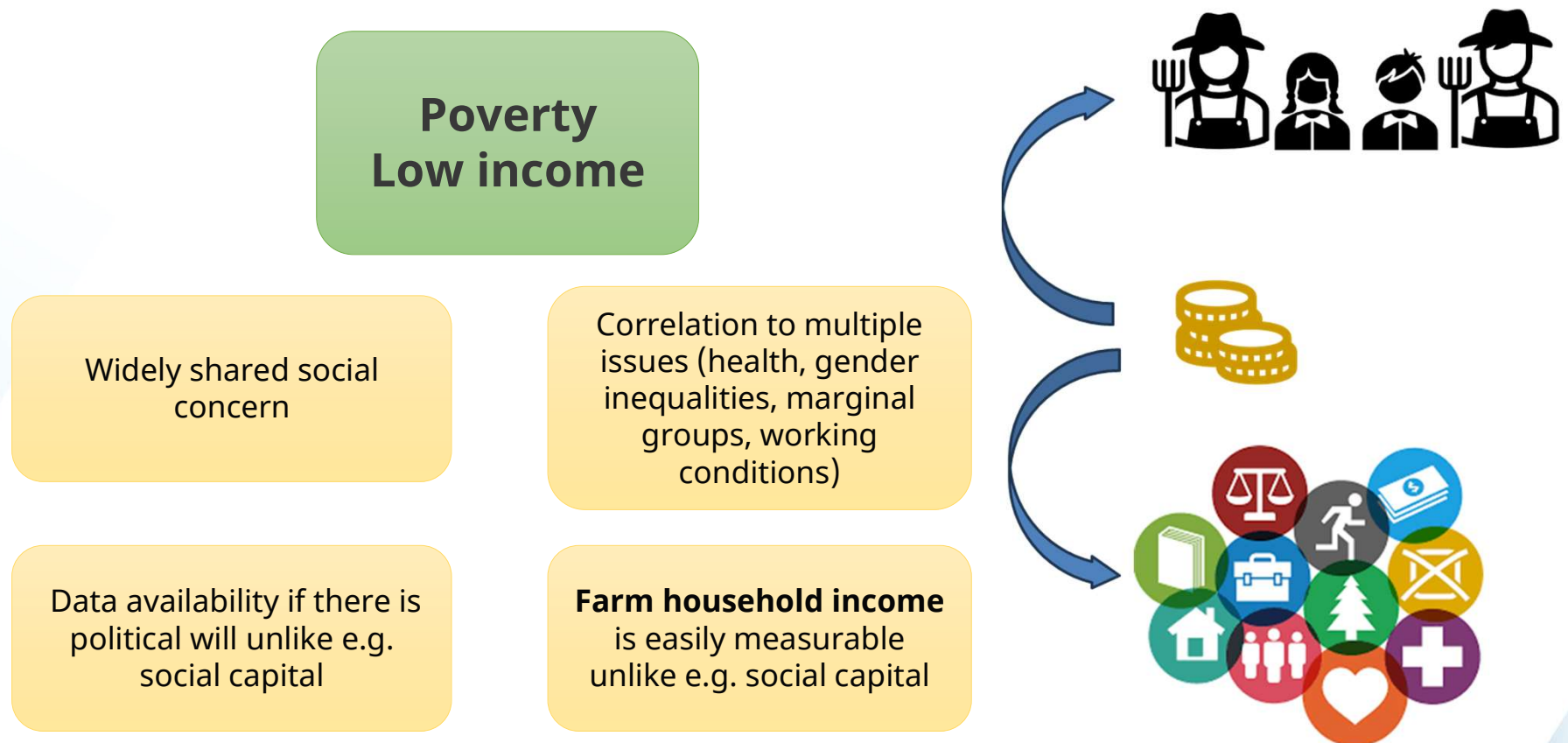


# Measurement issues impede awareness of social issues





# Which could the “game changer” for social sustainability in agriculture?



# How many poor farm families are in the EU?



The total available income within a household determines the standard of living.

Direct income payments are not targeted

Specific farm surveys (e.g., FADN - EU), economy-wide surveys (e.g., EU SILC) and income tax file provide information on farm income.


## Data Limitations and Gaps

- FADN: No data on the disposable income of farm households, evidence on livelihoods may understate actual household incomes, samples tend to be focused on “large farms”
- EU SILC: Small sample size of “farm household”
- Tax Data: Farmers are sometimes exempt or have simplified treatment for income taxes



## Concluding remarks

- Defining and targeting social issues is challenging
- Data gaps hinder the identification and definition of social issues as the starting point for policy making
- A game changer (income?) can bring “social” to agricultural policies: widely agreeable, measurable, understandable .. even if imperfect
- Efforts are needed to improve data collection and fill data gaps:
  - Facilitating the matching of statistical and government data from different sources
  - Consulting research communities with more experience conducting social surveys
  - More intersectoral and geospatially referenced data sources
  - Initiatives to make more uniform data collection and reporting systems



# OECD Farm-Level Analysis Network (FLAN)





# Overview of the FLAN

- Created in 2008, FLAN is a collaborative network of experts involved in the collection and analysis of micro farm-level data.
- FLAN members aims at improving the quality and relevance of agricultural policy analysis using micro-level data.
- Specific objectives:
  - To carry out consistent micro-level analysis across countries
  - To identify policy and methodological challenges and solutions
  - To promote cooperative efforts





# Topics of recent meetings

	25th meeting Jun 2020	26th meeting Nov 2020	27th meeting Apr 2021	28th meeting Oct 2021	29th meeting Mar 2022	30th meeting Nov 2022	31st meeting Mar 2023	32nd meeting Nov 2023	33rd meeting Mar 2024
<b>Productivity</b>	Farm performance	Farm performance							
<b>Income</b>								HH income as social issues	HH income and rural
<b>Resilience</b>					UK Study: droughts	UK Study: droughts	AUS study: droughts	AUS study & animal disease	Animal diseases
<b>Environmental sustainability</b>				<b>Joint TFPEN</b>		Biodiversity indicators	Digital & Green	<b>Joint FCAN</b>	
<b>Innovation</b>						Digital	Digital & Green	New Entrants & Digital	
<b>Rural development</b>					<b>Joint CFE</b>				
<b>Social sustainability</b>							Measuring social sustainability	Social issues and data gaps	Social issues in agriculture



# How does the FLAN operate?

## 1- 2 meetings (Spring & Fall) of experts sharing knowledge

- Topics: About 3 thematic sessions related to the programme of work (PWB)
- Secretariats' role: facilitator to help convene experts around an agenda
- Format: Hybrid after Covid
- Agendas and Summaries: APM, FLAN website, ONE Community
- Budget: Participants expected to cover their own costs to attend meetings

## About 70 participants

- Country experts
- Academics
- Delegates
- OECD Secretariat

## Next meetings

- **5-6 December 2024**: Sessions on TAD PWB, farm surveys in OECD countries and digital
- **3-4 July 2025**: Sessions on income, advisory services and other (tbd)



# Thanks for your attention



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