



Farm Sustainability Data Network

State of play of the legislative initiative

28th Pacioli Workshop

Ptuj, Slovenia - 3 October 2023

Basic act legislative initiative and process

From FADN - Farm *Accountancy* Data Network to FSDN - Farm *Sustainability* Data Network



Born in 1965



Born in 2023



Objectives of the conversion of FADN to FSDN

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

- 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 **individual 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**

Basic Regulation (EU) 1217/2009

Conversion of FADN into FSDN

- [FLINT research project](#) running from 2014 to 2016
- Public consultation in 2021 and 2022
- [FSDN proposal](#) adopted by the European Commission on 22 June 2022
- Legislative process with Council and Parliament between September 2022 and July 2023
- Political agreement reached on 18 July 2023
- Formal endorsement from Parliament and Council ongoing
- Entry into force foreseen for end of 2023 – early 2024

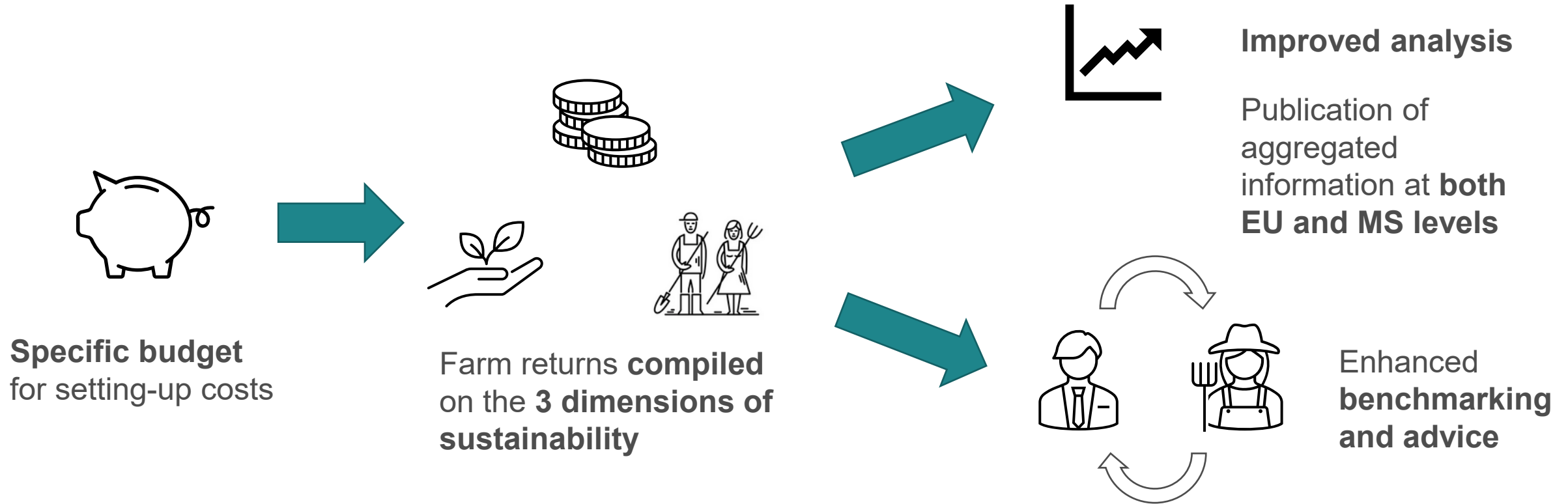
FSDN secondary legislation timeline

- The FSDN Basic Act establishes the framework
 - Delegated act (Reg. 1198/2014) and Implementing Act (Reg. 220/2015) include provisions on budget, variables, data sharing, data protection etc.
 - Discussion to start in FADN Committee on 12 October 2023
 - Finalisation planned for early 2024
- This timeline enables the preparation / adaptation of systems at Member State level

First year of data collection for FSDN: 2025

Data available: in 2026/27

The FSDN evolution – a new paradigm



Broader scope and topics

FADN

Link to CAP needs
Accountancy data
Economic analysis



FSDN

CAP needs and its impact on
agricultural sector
Union agriculture
Sustainability analysis

- **Topics**

- FSDN data shall cover the topics listed in the annex of the Basic Act
- Possibility to **modify or add** topics in the future

Basic Act – Topics

In **bold**: new topics compared to current FADN

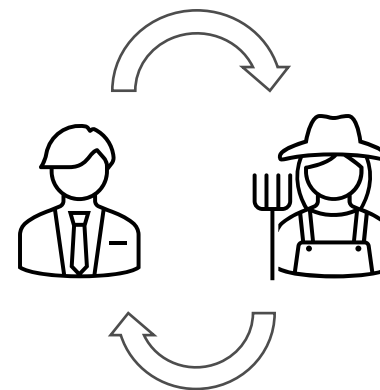
Economic	Environmental	Social
General information on the holding	Farming practices	Labour
Type of occupation	Soil management	Education
Assets and investments	Nutrient use and management	Gender balance
Quotas and other rights	Carbon farming	Working conditions
Debts/credits	Greenhouse gas emissions and removals	Social inclusion
Value added tax	Air pollution	Social security
Inputs	Water use and management	Infrastructure and essential services
Land use and crops	Plant protection use	Generation renewal
Livestock production	Antimicrobial use	
Animal products and services	Animal welfare	
Market integration	Biodiversity	
Quality products – Geographical indications	Organic farming	
Membership in producer organisations	Certification schemes	
Risk management	Energy consumption and energy production	
Innovation and digitalisation	Food loss on primary production level	
Other gainful activities related to the holding	Waste management	
Subsidies		
Indicative share of off-farm income		

Basic Act – Farmers' participation



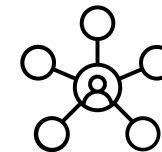
- Voluntary participation from farmers – no penalties
- Member States
 - shall set out a plan to incentivize farmers' participation
 - may adopt national rules to encourage participation in surveys
 - In exceptional cases, may also adopt rules to address possible cases in which the number of returning holdings is likely not to be achieved

Basic Act – Benchmarking

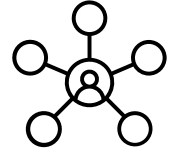


- Liaison agencies or appointed organisations shall **offer to returning holdings the possibility to obtain its results**
- Where possible, the results of the holding include **benchmarking information**, comparing with regional, national, Union or sectorial averages
- **Quick feedback to farmers:** reports should be available as soon as possible and no later than 4 months after checking farm returns

Basic Act – Data sharing at MS level



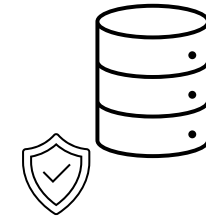
- Farm returns shall be **compiled** by means of surveys for which Member States may use, where relevant, data from **other data sources**, including compilation methods and innovative approaches
- Data sources (including « any other data source »)
 - IACS
 - Identification and registration of animals - Vineyard and organic farming registers
 - CAP strategic plans data for monitoring and evaluation
 - Etc.
- Member States shall **ensure that Liaison Agencies have right to access the data** → establish cooperation mechanisms to share data within MS
- Possibility for MS to use FSDN to feed national statistics



Basic Act – Data sharing at EU level

- In addition to the farm return, Member States shall determine the **links between returning holdings and identifiers in two datasets**
 - CAP strategic plans data for monitoring and evaluation
 - IACS
- Clear purpose on analysis
- Member States can choose to send either
 - Links between IDs
 - Directly the data – including the FSDN ID
- Secondary legislation:
 - Possibility to enlarge the list of datasets
 - Data definition (linked to topics) and technical specifications

Basic Act – Data protection



- Individual data shall be used only to comply with the scope of the Regulation
- Not used for controls or taxation
- The Commission may grant access to pseudonymised data for research purpose
- Limitation to the use of individual data aligned with data protection regulations

Implementing act

- Data collection granularity
- Examples of variables

Data collection granularity

- **Farm level:** most of the information
- **Crop level:** to answer policy questions e.g., on environment (inputs)
- **Plot level:** proof for the future
 - Optional on inputs information
 - Basic information on parcels: data sharing with IACS
 - Opportunities to evolve in case farmers use Farm Management Information Systems

Economic dimension – Market integration

What is the position of the holding in the food chain?

Output – at farm level

Description	% of value sold (in a year)	Contract type	Contract duration	Time spent for direct sale (days)
Direct sale		—	—	
Cooperative/Producers organisation		—		—
Retailer				—
Food processor				—
Wholesaler				—
Other				—

Input (table H) – at input level

Same table and categories with a breakdown for the following kinds of inputs

- Motor fuels and lubricants
- Purchased feedstuffs (with current farm return breakdown)
- Purchased seeds and seedlings
- Fertilisers and soil improvers
- Crop protection products

Contract type

1. Verbal or informal agreement
2. Written contract

Contract duration

1. Short term contract up to 2 years
2. Medium to long term contract

Environmental dimension

Nutrient use and management

Collection of variables that allow calculation of the nutrient balance of the holding (nutrient input – nutrient output – storage – management)

- Manure produced - quantities:
 - Estimation based on kind and number of animals
 - Share of liquid and solid quantities produced by kind of storage facilities
- Manure management:
 - Typology of application
 - Share by type of application and area on which it applies
- Feed use - quantities:
 - Feed typologies
 - Quantity per type of animals and feed typologies

Environmental dimension – Biodiversity

- What is the area of landscape features in the holding?

Landscape features

Landscape features	Area (ha)
Terraces	
Hedgerows, individual or group of trees, trees rows	
Field margins, patches or buffer strips	
Ditches	
Streams	
Small ponds	
Small wetlands	
Stonewalls	
Cairns	
Cultural features	

- Did the holding suffer from damages caused by wild fauna?

Damages caused by wild animals

Description	Value
Damage caused by wild animals to crops and grasslands	
Damage caused by wild animals to livestock	
Damage caused by wild animals to physical assets	

Social dimension – Generational renewal

Generational renewal is a key objective for the CAP – need to learn more on farm transmission

Description	Code	Year	Number
Year of foundation of the farm	—	—	—
Farm managed by the same family (only for family farms based on family relations, including beyond the nuclear family)	Y / N Not applicable (holding is not a family farm)	—	—
Number of years since the farm manager took over	—	—	—
Pensions (do manager – holder or workers benefit from pensions?)	Y / N	—	—
Successor(s) identified (for holdings with the youngest manager above 50 years old)	Y / N Not applicable (manager is less than 50 years old)	—	—
Successor(s) under 40-year old	—	—	—
Successor(s) from the same family	—	—	—
Successor(s) working on the farm	—	—	—
Male successor(s)	—	—	—
Female successor(s)	—	—	—

Conclusions

Lessons learned - Basic Act negotiations

- Output harmonisation:
 - Key role of a comprehensive farm return
 - Shared definitions and methodologies
- « Reinforce the [data protection] bubble »:
 - Reassure farmers and data providers
 - Use of individual data within the FSDN community
 - Publish aggregated data

Lessons learned - the FSDN pilot project

- « FSDN is here, make it happen! »
- Key importance of farm-level data for analysis and research
- Improve use of existing data sources and cooperation among authorities / stakeholders
 - Between Liaison agencies: improved balance at Member States level - networking opportunities – best practices exchange
 - At national level: liaison agencies at the center, interaction with ministries – data owners – advisors
 - Exchanges between data collectors and data users
- Enhance farmers' willingness to provide data: incentives, technical assistance, educational programmes

Take-away messages

- Embrace the change with a positive attitude
- Shift from economic to sustainability
 - Liaison agencies
 - Ministries - administrations
 - Farmers
 - Advisors
 - Analysts - researchers
- More resources, new skills, better data, better analysis, feedback to farmers
- Prepare for the future

Thank you!

Discussion