

Farm Sustainability Data Network

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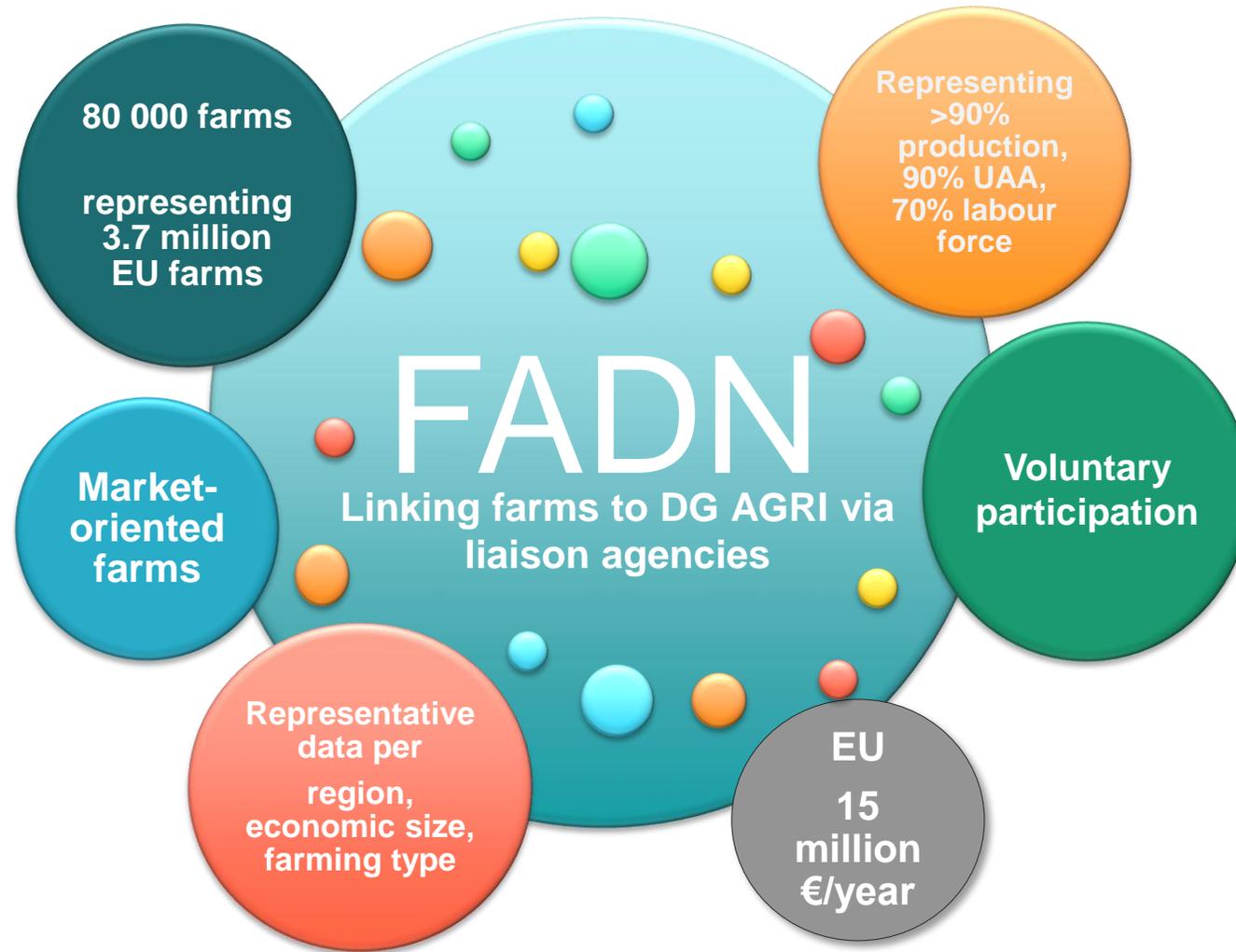
European Commission - DG Agriculture

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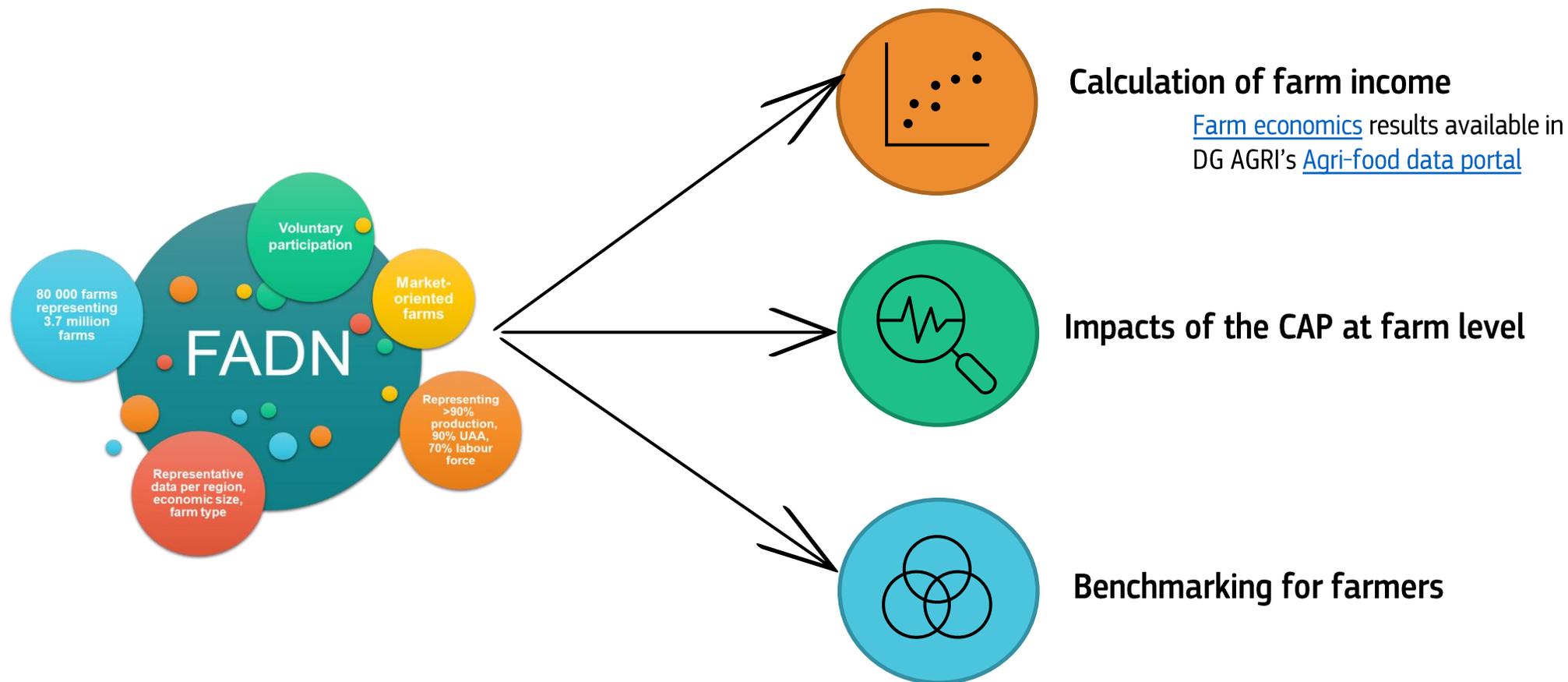
1. From accountancy (FADN) to sustainability (FSDN) farm-level data
2. What is Farm Sustainability Data Network (FSDN)?
3. FSDN new tools
4. The political context
5. Conclusions

1. From FADN to FSDN

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



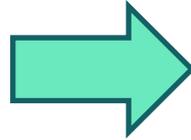
From FADN to FSDN - Farm Sustainability Data Network

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

Building on research projects, dedicated studies and extensive consultation activities



FADN
Born in 1965



FSDN
Born in 2023

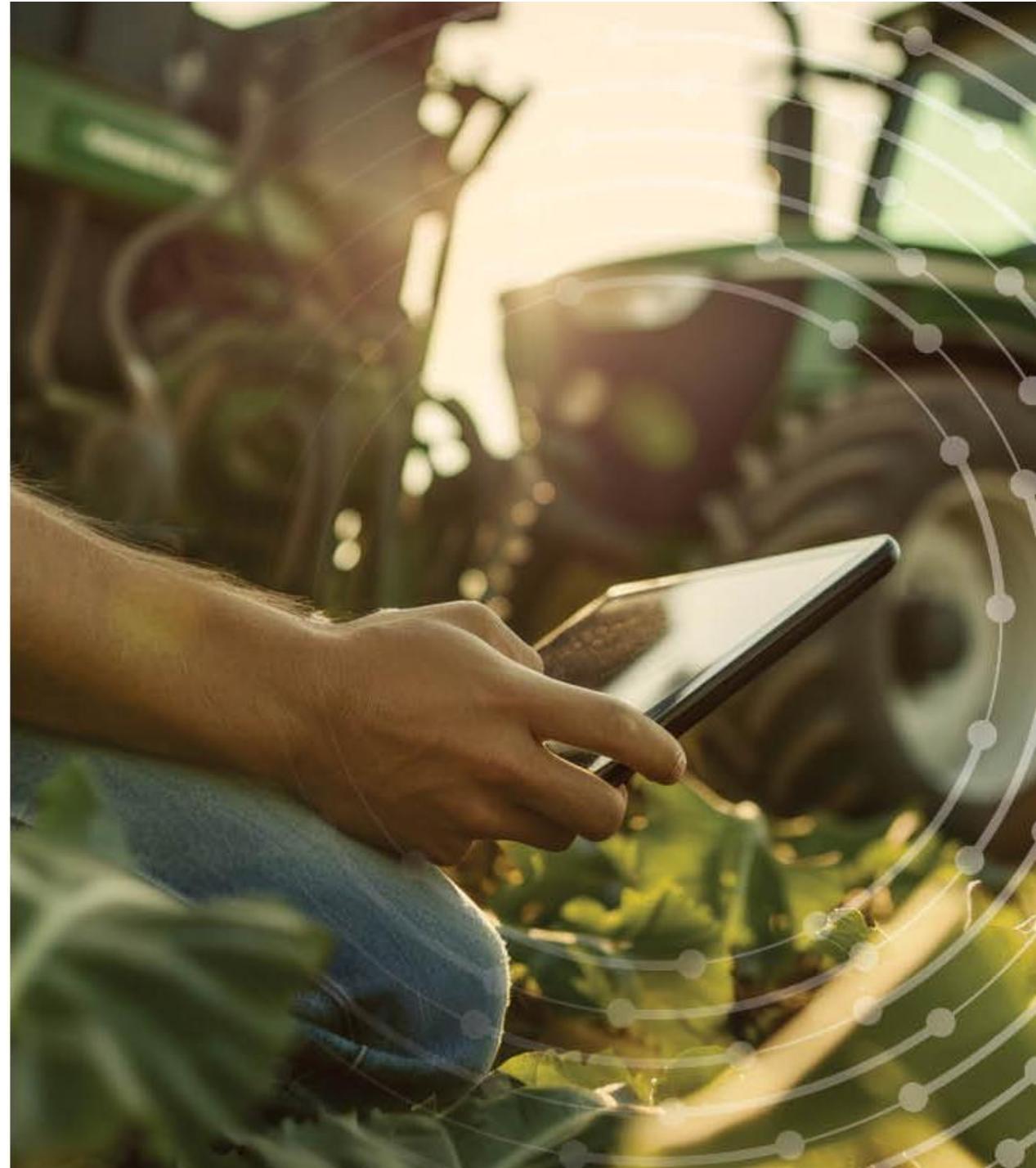
2. What is FSDN?

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

- **From accountancy to sustainability:** 42 topics classified by the 3 sustainability dimensions
- **Voluntary farmer participation maintained** - Member States develop an **incentive plan**
- **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**



Existing from 1965 – **New from 2025**

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

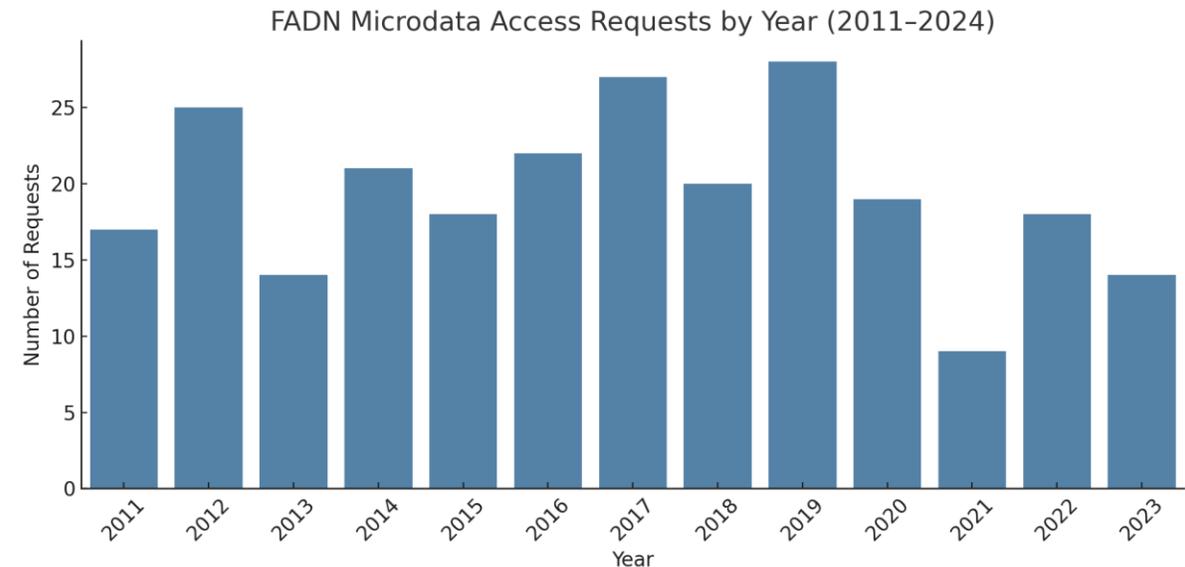
Some countries are planning early delivery of 2027 variables

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

FADN/FSDN for researchers

- **Over 200 microdata access requests for research** have been received by DG AGRI since 2011 (nearly 30 requests per year between 2016 – 2019).
- The majority of requests (around 70%) come from external research institutions, followed by EU bodies and internal Commission services.
- The topics addressed range from farm income and productivity to climate policy, illustrating the growing importance of FADN as a basis for evidence-based policy and applied research.
- **FADN is a leading farm-level dataset in research:**
 - From an internal analysis, around 50% of scientific publications on farm-level economics use FADN as data source
 - growing interest in broader sustainability issues



3. New FSDN tools

- Linking with other datasets**
- Incentive plans**
- Benchmarking – feedback to farmers EU tool**

New FSDN tools – data sharing

Member States LEVEL

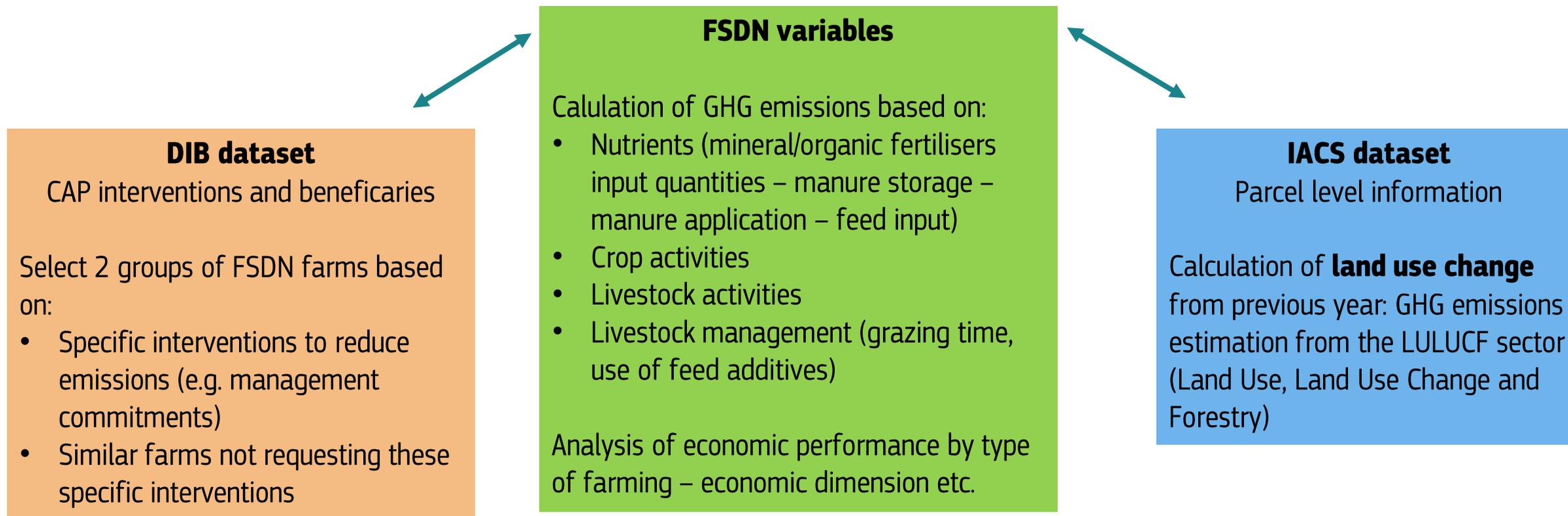
- **Compile FSDN information** from other national datasets (e.g. IACS including CAP interventions, livestock database)

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. Data received from Member States in April-May 2025
 - **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: links FSDN - DIB available in **2027** / links FSDN - IACS data sharing available in **2028**

Data sharing at EU level – improved analysis example

Comparison between farms applying for GHG emission reduction CAP interventions and similar farms not applying



Incentive plans to increase farmer's participation

- **Farmer's participation in FADN/FSDN** is one of the biggest issues across Europe
 - Additional resources
 - Build incentives plan
 - Share good practices between liaison agencies
- **Key highlights** from incentive plans
 - Building/improving benchmarking IT tools
 - Communication / technical support
 - Direct financial contribution
 - Link to CAP plans
 - Recognition / awards

FSDN EU tool for feedback to farmers



- Main objective: provide **direct feedback on sustainability performance**
- Targeted to **farmers/farm advisors** and open to any of them
- Tables and graphs based on FADN data, to be enriched with FSDN variables (e.g. GHG emissions calculation under development)
- **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.
- **Translated** in all EU languages
- First version on data and performance, second version with advanced graphic interface

FSDN EU tool for feedback to farmers



Farm Sustainability Data Network (FSDN) – comparative results
 AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT



Select input variables

Year *

Country *

Main farm activity *

Economic size class *

Currency *

National Currency Rate *

Reset form

Export PDF

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ⓘ Your results are compared with 1 035 (15 996 farms represented) similar sample farms

Structural information Economic dimension **Environmental dimension** Social dimension

Environmental benchmarking	Unit	Average farm	Enter your value	Benchmark	Performance		
Quantity of mineral nitrogen used	100 kilogrammes	134,4	<input type="text" value="100"/>	74 %	Below 33%	33% - 67%	Above 67%
Mineral nitrogen input intensity	Kilogrammes per hectare	95,78	<input type="text" value="80"/>	84%	Below 33%	33% - 67%	Above 67%
Plant protection products (PPP) cost	EUR	21 761	<input type="text" value="18 500"/>	85 %	Below 33%	33% - 67%	Above 67%
PPP cost intensity	EUR per hectare	155,08	<input type="text" value="148"/>	95%	Below 33%	33% - 67%	Above 67%
Livestock density	Livestock units per hectare	0,05	<input type="text" value="0,12"/>	222%	Below 33%	33% - 67%	Above 67%
Energy cost	EUR	26 809	<input type="text" value="32 000"/>	119 %	Below 33%	33% - 67%	Above 67%
Total cost of feed for grazing livestock	EUR	1 652	<input type="text"/>	0%	Below 33%	33% - 67%	Above 67%
Of which cost of home-grown feed for grazing livestock	EUR	1 200	<input type="text"/>	0%	Below 33%	33% - 67%	Above 67%

4. Political context

FSDN in the Strategic dialogue

- *Strategic Dialogue recommendations on the future of EU agriculture:* built by 29 major stakeholders to reach a common understanding for the future of EU's farming
- *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
 - In the future, a methodology for product-level assessment needs to be developed



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

The Vision for agriculture

- The **Vision for agriculture and food** is a roadmap on the future of farming and food in Europe, setting the stage for an attractive, competitive, resilient, future-oriented and fair agri-food system for current and future generations.
- «**Incentivising sustainability**»: chapter in the Vision on the importance of working with nature to provide resilience for future farming generations
- The Commission will develop and phase-in a **voluntary benchmarking system for on-farm sustainability assessments**, based on current sustainability standards and certifications, mostly in the private sector
- FSDN can help to build on the broader benchmarking system included in the Vision:
 - Indicators - analysis
 - Experience on FADN/FSDN benchmarking platforms at EU and national level

5. Conclusions

Take away messages

- Focus on the **political relevance of the FSDN** and its links with CAP objectives – other policies affecting agriculture
- Key importance to **build trust and share the same objectives** with all stakeholders
- **Safeguards for confidentiality have been improved** in the Basic Regulation
- **Improve the data use** for several objectives: feedback to farmers, policy analysis, research etc.
 - cover the three dimensions of sustainability (in particular environmental and social) at farm level
 - FADN is a leading farm-level dataset in research
- **Data sharing is a way forward both at MS and EU level**
 - Inclusion of specific legal provisions triggers interest and activity on interoperability
 - To be seen on a long-term basis

Farm Sustainability Data Network

USEFUL LINKS ON FADN - FSDN

FSDN national liaison agencies:

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

FIND OUT MORE about the FSDN and subscribe to the [newsletter](#):

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

[FSDN Leaflet](#) available in English, German, French, Portuguese



Thank you!

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