



Food and Agriculture Organization
of the United Nations

Guidelines for measuring youth employment and Decent Work in agriculture within developing countries



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Acronyms

AGRIS	Agricultural Integrated Survey
FAO	Food and Agricultural Organization of the United Nations
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GSARS	Global Strategy to improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics
ICLS	International Conference of Labour Statisticians
ILO	International Labour Organization
KBNS	Kenyan Bureau of National Statistics
LFS	Labour Force Survey
LSMS	Living Standards Measurement Study
LSMS-ISA	Living Standards Measurement Study - Integrated Surveys on Agriculture
NEET	Not in Employment, Education or Training
SUST2	Sustainability 2 – Decent Work in Agriculture

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Introduction

Decent Work, a term coined by the International Labour Organization (ILO) in 1999, is broadly defined as work that is done freely without coercion or force, in a safe work environment with fair procedures, workers' rights, social protection, and secure returns for work. The focus is on job quality and includes issues such as labour relations, hazardous work, workers' rights, gender gaps, and work-life balance, among others. The framework on the measurement of Decent Work was adopted by the Eighteenth International Conference of Labour Statisticians (ICLS) in 2008, and revised guidelines, *Decent Work Indicators - Guidelines for Producers and Users of Statistical and Legal Framework Indicators*, were published in December 2013.

While “work” as defined by Resolution 1 (*Resolution concerning statistics of work, employment and labour underutilization*) of the Nineteenth ICLS includes both employment work and own-use production work—where own-use production is the production of goods or services primarily intended for family consumption – the Decent Work Agenda primarily focuses on employment work. The statistical indicators fit well within a developed country context where social safety nets are in place, employment is primarily one main job over the course of the year, wage labour is the norm, and own-use production of agriculture is minimal. However, many of the statistical indicators in the framework are less applicable in a developing country setting where the majority of households engage in agriculture as a central activity, multiple income earning activities help mitigate income insecurity due to irregular and seasonal work, non-wage employment is the norm, and own-use production of agriculture is essential to households' well-being.

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