

## Executive summary

An integral component of any green growth strategy is a reliable set of measurement tools and indicators to evaluate the effectiveness of policies and to gauge the progress achieved in shifting economic activity towards a greener path. These tools and indicators must be based on internationally comparable data and integrated within a conceptual framework. It is necessary also to select indicators according to a specific set of criteria.

This report is a first step in developing the *OECD Green Growth Strategy Measurement Framework* that will monitor progress on green growth in the agricultural sector of OECD countries. The goal is to identify the relevant, succinct and measurable statistics that will provide the basis to further develop green growth indicators in this sector. It analyses what is needed and how to build on the available data in terms of economic performance indicators, policy indicators and agri-environmental indicators.

A preliminary selection of indicators has been made on the basis of existing work undertaken by the OECD and other international organisations, and they have been structured in line with the *OECD Green Growth Strategy Measurement Framework*. The choice of specific indicators was governed by the idea of capturing key aspects of a low-carbon, resource-efficient agricultural sector. More specifically, it was based on the following guiding principles:

- Provide a balanced coverage of the two dimensions of green growth – “green” and “growth” – and of their main elements, with particular attention given to indicators capturing the interface between the two.
- Measurable and comparable across countries.
- Reflect key issues of common relevance to green growth in OECD countries.
- Easy to communicate.
- Aligned with the OECD measurement framework for green growth.

These criteria are not new, but rather variations of more specific aspects of OECD basic guiding principles for indicators concerning policy relevance, analytical soundness and measurability.

In addition to the aforementioned key guiding principles, two other criteria have been used in this study:

- Adjustment of indicators to relate them to national green growth approaches and strategies used by OECD countries.
- Indicators were constructed based on existing data sources.

A preliminary selection of approximately 25 indicators was made to assess green growth progress in the agricultural sector. They were derived from existing databases of the OECD (i.e. the Producer and Consumer Support, agri-environmental indicators, productivity statistics and patent statistical databases), the FAO, the World Bank (World Development Indicators database) and EUROSTAT.

A far greater range of indicators can be constructed from these databases, but the focus here is on the key aspects of green growth in agriculture for which it is feasible to consistently develop suitable indicators over time. This list is sufficiently flexible to enable countries to adapt it to its national context.

### ***Priority areas for progress***

The list of the proposed indicators will be further developed as new data become available and existing concepts evolve. In particular, progress in this area will benefit greatly from work currently being undertaken by OECD on advancing the green growth measurement agenda, on the completion and implementation of the United Nations' *Integrated System of Environmental-Economic Accounting* (SEEA), and by the World Bank-led *Wealth Accounting and Valuation of Ecosystem Services* (WAVES) partnership.

Specific priority areas for follow-up work to address important methodological and data gaps include the following areas:

- Including natural assets in growth accounting, and thereby derive new measures of total-factor productivity growth.
- Development of indicators for regulatory instruments, which are more complicated than those on economic instruments (e.g. government transfers and taxes). Careful consideration should be given to how indicators on policy responses can be complemented by indicators on environmental regulations, which are very important for the agricultural sector in most OECD countries.
- Improving the data on water pricing and cost recovery.
- Further improving green-related R&D and innovation data in agriculture.



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