**EU Results Framework Indicator methodology note**

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| 1. Name of indicator | **Number of people receiving rural advisory services with EU support.**  |
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| 2. Which sector (using Result Framework heading) | Sustainable and Inclusive Agriculture (Agriculture and Food Security). |
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| 3. Technical Definition  | RAS[[1]](#footnote-1), **Rural advisory services** are the different activities that make knowledge available, strengthen capacities, empower rural people and promote innovations in the rural context. RAS disseminates information about technologies, markets, inputs, financial issues, assist farmers to develop their technical, organisational and management skills and practices as to improve their livelihoods and wellbeing. It helps farmers to strengthen their relationship with the private sector, researchers and governments. RAS improves ability of farmers to operate in groups, to deal with risk patterns, to use ICTs (Information Communication technologies) effectively, to seek new markets and deal with value chain operators. Examples of RAS:* Facilitation of linkages between farmers, their organisations and research.
* Development of informal and formal rural organisations.
* Training and advising farmers and agri-businesses along the market chain.

There are several levels of needs for human resource development. This includes the farmer level and farmer training institutions, the extension agent level and institutions that train them (e.g. technical colleges) as well as the government officials trained to provide RAS. Only farmers, extension agents, etc who have participated in workshops, trainings, field trips, or similar events should be counted.Extension agents need capacity development, which means improving their skills in building social capital, in facilitating discussions and coaching stakeholders, in negotiating, and addressing new challenges such as climate change and market trends.  |
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| 4. Rationale (including which policy priority, and how is this indicator linked to that policy priority) | The European Commission's Communication: Agenda for Change (2011) supports inclusive and sustainable economic growth increasing people’s ability to participate in, and benefit from, wealth and job creation. In order to ensure inclusiveness and sustainability, an investment is required to develop human resources. This indicator responds to the **policy priority 1** from the Commission staff working document "Boosting food and nutrition security through EU action". Improving smallholder resilience and rural livelihoods is achieved by training smallholder and women farmers in adding value to their produce, developing viable agri-business, improving the links between farmers and markets and enhancing the efficiency of agricultural value chains. Rural advisory services play an important role in agricultural development for food and nutrition security. Strengthening capacities requires a broader and wider scope, including: the development of networks, organising producers; facilitating access to credit, input and output service; convening innovation platforms, alliances and partnerships among stakeholders; promoting gender equality; facilitating knowledge management; supporting adaptation to climate change, and disseminating new knowledge through training and demonstrations.  |
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| 5. Level of disaggregation | Disaggregation by sex:Number of **women** and **men,** which have received rural advisory services. |
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| 6. Data Sources (including any issues on (i) different definitions by source, and (ii) level of availability of the data) | EU Project and programme monitoring systems: annual and final reports from implementing organisations, (governments, international organisations, non-state actors), baseline surveys, ROM mid-term reviews, and evaluations. |
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| 7. Data calculation (including any assumptions made) | The indicator is calculated from the sum of participants to workshops, trainings, field trips, or similar events, in the following themes:* Technical - land cropping, use of seeds and other inputs, post-harvest handling, pest and disease control, livestock development, fisheries.
* Entrepreneurship and Business Development – processing of primary goods, marketing, negotiation of contracts, accounting, access to financial and non-financial services, setting-up of farmers organizations.

 AssumptionsData calculation is the addition of the number of participants to at least one of the mentioned events or training courses. While efforts should be taken to ensure against double counting, there may be instances where this is not feasible. For example, one participant could be counted more than once, depending on the number of different events or working courses they attend. In the case of working courses composed of more than one session the number of participants reported will be the highest number of people participating in any session within the course. |
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| 8. Worked examples | *Ex1: Nicaragua**Programme: Support to Bovine value Chain**Training event on animal health : 50 participants (30 women, 20 men)*Training on marketing: 35 participants. (6 women, 29 men). Training on management regarding the Dairy Farmer’s Association in Nicaragua: 42 participants (10 women, 32 men).The total number of people receiving RAS will be: 127 (46 women, 81 men).*Ex2: (No specified country)**Training course on zero tillage (composed of 3 sessions)*Session 1: 20 participantssession 2: 30 participantsSession 3: 27 participantsThe total number of people receiving RAS will be: 30 |
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| 9. Is it used by another organization or in the framework of international initiatives, conventions, etc.? If so, which? | The EU working group on “Outcome and impact level indicators on agriculture and rural development" (October 2009) mentions an indicator related to extension services:% of farmers that have knowledge, use advice and are satisfied with specific knowledge being disseminated by the extension systemSimilar indicators are being used by the World Bank within their set of "core sector indicators". Examples include: Targeted clients satisfied with agricultural services (percentage), Technologies demonstrated in the project areas (number), (Client) Days of training provided (number).  |
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| 10.Other issues |  |

1. Technical definition from Global Forum for Rural Advisory Services (GFRAS) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)