The FAIR Journal

Building community, capacity and knowledge of FAIR data processes for POs and grantees. Championing improvements in data-rich foundation investments — to help deliver greater returns in-country.

Contents

Knowledge sharing

Key dates

Insights
- the FAIR ecosystem for Agriculture
- the wider FAIR ecosystem

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Welcome to the FAIR Journal

A message from CABI's Data Governance Lead, Ameen Jauhar

I am delighted to welcome you to this special edition of The FAIR Journal

The edition is special because we have pulled together some amazing outcome reports and updates from projects and events that demonstrate how FAIR and responsible data practices can benefit the foundation's investments in AgDev projects and the wider ecosystem.

We explore how top-down and bottom-up influences can really change the way that data is found, accessed, stored and interoperated, we demystify some of the technical terminology around FAIR, and we ask some challenging questions.

What are the next steps? How will AI's boom impact the drive for robust and more sustainable data practices in agriculture? What can be adopted or adapted from other areas, sectors and best practice? And what can they learn from us?

We also showcase some of the amazing advocacy our team has engaged in since the start of the year and look ahead to the launch of the FAIR Process Framework, a tool that we know has the potential to be transformative in operationalizing FAIR data principles.

If you have missed any of the previous issues and want to catch up, you can find them here.

And if you would like to read more about our work on Enabling Data Access and how this project started, look here or use the QR code below.

Best regards,

Ameen

Knowledge Share – Building the FAIR Process Framework

Operational updates from Chipo Cosford née Msengezi, Senior Project Manager, CABI

Since our visit to the foundation in January 2024, our work has progressed significantly

The learning lunch and the series of strategic meetings we had, gave our team further valuable insights into the needs of POs, grantees and other significant stakeholders on specific investments.

This helped us define and scope out some deep dives and cases that could serve as test beds for the various FAIR resources we are implementing (the FAIR Process Framework [Alpha]), and which we will be showcasing this month.

Treating data as an asset means enabling data's highest value for use in strategic decision-making and for powering faster and smarter progress against problems. We have been developing the FAIR Process Framework to enhance data governance, management and strategy within AgDev, ensuring it remains 'people-first'. Our approach considers user experience and social context as well as technical implementation.

Through 2024 we developed a project roadmap for delivering the FAIR Process Framework as an online resource. We focused on supporting POs with impactful cases to provide evidence of the benefits of adopting good data practices in investments. We prioritized: CGIAR 'Recipe Books' Development (Jan-Oct), Ethiopia Data Governance Support (Jan-June), and regular

and regular engagement and communications, including through this FAIR Journal. Progress includes:

- Concluding a discovery process to better understand the data practices within CGIAR investments. We produced a report and five key recommendations, with positive responses from stakeholders.

- Completing in-country interviews and assessment of data policies in Ethiopia to provide specific data governance recommendations for consideration in the Digital Agriculture Roadmap (DAR).

- Completing and user testing the evidence-based content for the Framework and migrating it onto one sustainable platform.

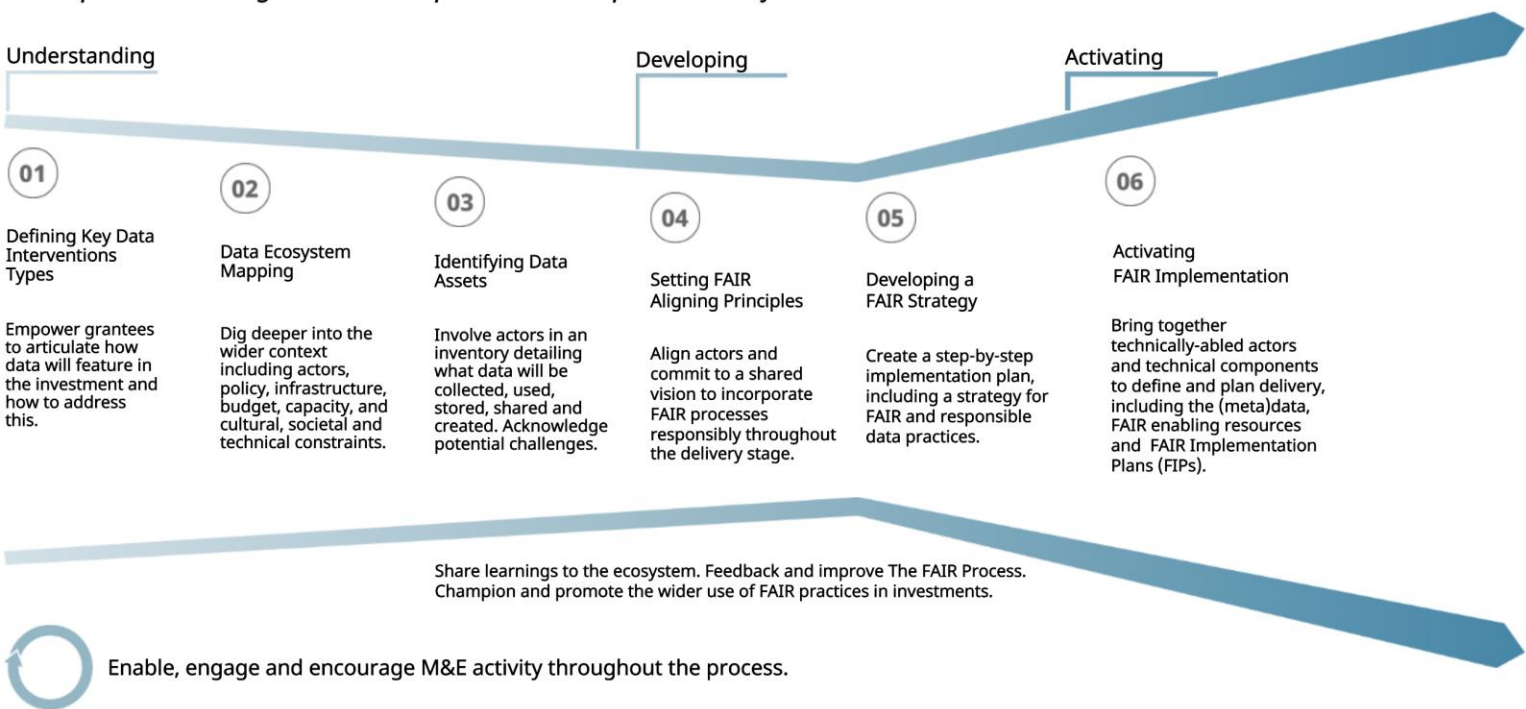- Starting UX development for the Framework, including wireframes and prototypes.

We look forward to continuing to share our progress this month and we hope to see you again in October, in Seattle, for the Framework launch!

The FAIR Process Framework - coming soon

We are using these human-centred steps to design the next iteration of the FAIR Process Framework

The FAIR Process Framework

Six steps to delivering FAIR and responsible data practices in foundation investments

Understanding

Developing

Activating

01 Defining Key Data Interventions Types

Empower grantees to articulate how data will feature in the investment and how to address this.

02 Data Ecosystem Mapping

Dig deeper into the wider context including actors, policy, infrastructure, budget, capacity, and cultural, societal and technical constraints.

03 Identifying Data Assets

Involve actors in an inventory detailing what data will be collected, used, stored, shared and created. Acknowledge potential challenges.

04 Setting FAIR Aligning Principles

Align actors and commit to a shared vision to incorporate FAIR processes responsibly throughout the delivery stage.

05 Developing a FAIR Strategy

Create a step-by-step implementation plan, including a strategy for FAIR and responsible data practices.

06 Activating FAIR Implementation

Bring together technically-abled actors and technical components to define and plan delivery, including the (meta)data, FAIR enabling resources and FAIR Implementation Plans (FIPs).

Share learnings to the ecosystem. Feedback and improve The FAIR Process. Champion and promote the wider use of FAIR practices in investments.

Enable, engage and encourage M&E activity throughout the process.

We will deliver an online resource, tailored to PO experience and investment lifecycles, based on this Framework in October 2024.

Launch of FAIR Process Framework BETA Seattle, Fall 2024.

Data is a key enabler of the foundation's strategy.

The Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation FAIR Data Working Group

FAIR at Scale – FAIR Data Working Group's Data Access Toolkit

Martin Parr, Director, Data Policy & Practice, Digital Development, CABI speaks to Ashley Farley, PO of Knowledge & Research Services

Improving data management processes across the foundation's investment areas is no mean feat, even though its own FAIR Data Working Group has noted: "Data is a key enabler of the foundation's strategy." There are many blockers, not least in the sheer amount of time, resource and commitment required to do it well.

As we build on our framework and create resources and methodologies to help POs and others implement FAIR in AgDev investments, we must ensure we also look to what has worked already within the foundation, and where meaningful efforts have been made to change data management. That's why the CABI (CAB International) team is so keen to learn from the cross-foundational work being done by the foundation's FAIR Data Working Group.

> *"We need to start now and ensure we have the right processes in place"*

The group has just released a Data Access Toolkit on the foundation SharePoint site. It features a range of resources developed over a three-year engagement with different investment streams.

These tools represent an important step in implementing and enabling positive changes to data practice and data access in the foundation. The key now is implementation. As Ashley Farley, who led toolkit development, said: "We need to start now, and to do that we need to have the right processes in place."

For us working with partners in AgDev, ensuring we utilize the tools effectively is important. For example, the data management plans based on those already trailed in the foundation's Toolkit for Health- and Gender-focused investments are now being adapted by CABI for CGIAR contexts. Similarly, CABI's close working with (and understanding of) the CGIAR recipe books will help inform other approaches that will go into our own resources - and potentially, through more collaboration with Ashley and her team, into foundation-wide practice.

The potential for future applicability of our own Framework beyond AgDev to bring the value associated with FAIR processes into other areas of the foundation work is heartening.

Ashley noted that the strength of an ongoing relationship has also helped with building out tools with maximum impact:

"I've been working with the CABI Enabling Data Access team for several years. Their deep technical understanding of the landscape of data and digital, combined with the personal skill sets within the team, really made the difference for us. The challenge now is to bring everything that we've done so far together and collaborate to understand the issues around data management and making data FAIR."

You can find the FAIR Data Working Group's Data Access Toolkit resources on the foundation.

For more about the foundation's approach [sign up for *Unlocked*](#), the foundation's open access newsletter, and hear more about its expanded Open Access policy in [these webinars, which explain implications for grantees](#) (see page 20 for more details about registration)

Knowledge Share – FAIR Progress via the CGIAR recipe books

Arun Jadhav, Digital Development Manager, CABI, introduces new guidance and tools for CGIAR investments

The foundation funds various CGIAR investments focused on agriculture and food security, involving diverse data types from breeding to geospatial data. Despite commitments to FAIR principles, adherence is inconsistent, necessitating clear, actionable guidelines. CABI is currently developing a 'recipe book' translating FAIR principles into practical instructions, aiming to enhance data usability and promote AI-ready data.

How will it help?

This approach will enable CGIAR to measure FAIR potential within its investments. It will also provide a means to indicate the 'maturity' of the investments from a FAIR data-aligned perspective.

How does it work in practice?

Developing recipe books provides explicit guidelines for diverse data types, ensuring practical FAIR implementation, addressing inconsistencies, and enhancing data usability for stakeholders, especially for future AI-ready use cases.
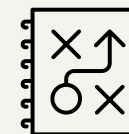
What are the benefits of the recipe books?

- Developed DMP template(s) with data management objectives and targets from start
- FAIR targets and assessment mechanisms
- Evaluates FAIRness of assets
- Regularly assesses FAIRness for continuous improvement
- Aligns with FAIR principles

For FAIR processes to be successfully implemented, the approach must be people first, and not technology first.

Ameen Jauhar, CABI Data Governance Lead

FAIR at Scale – FAIR and AI

By Ameen Jauhar, Data Governance Lead, CABI

How can FAIR (& responsible) data bolster socially beneficial AI innovation for Digital Agriculture?

Digital Agriculture is likely to impact [one million smallholder farmers by 2027](#), according to the World Economic Forum.

AI systems are providing technological enhancements to areas ranging from agronomy solutions, to ag advisory, and even facilitating access to financial and credit services. However, AI systems are highly attuned to the quality and quantum of training datasets. It is here that FAIR data can prove to be a decisive aid in developing better AI models with more accurate outputs.

FAIR data fundamentally aims to improve data access, increasing the data available for AI to learn from. This is critical, as more data-intensive AI innovation (such as generative AI - for example, ChatGPT, or more generally language-learning models or LLMs) becomes commonplace in Agricultural Development. It is also potentially helpful in addressing concerns around AI, for example:

"The speed with which AI is being developed poses a moment of opportunity and risk—will their creation and application be inclusive, reflecting the needs of lower-income countries, or will they be applied inequitably and further the gaps we've seen?"

Any government looking to tap into the AI potential for its agricultural ecosystem cannot do so without prioritizing access to high-quality, AI-ready datasets.

Governments are increasingly recognizing the potential of data-driven algorithms and hence pursuing data access and management as a priority in digital policies. Key examples include:

- [Digital Ethiopia, 2025](#), and

- the [Agriculture Data Management Framework](#) from Telangana, India.

As the foundation increasingly seeks to invest in AI innovation to bolster digital agriculture across the globe, FAIR data is the *sine qua non* to accomplishing this objective.

[*AI Principles for Development to Promote Equity, Accelerate Progress | Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation](#)

FAIR at Scale – Where could we go next?

By Martin Parr, Director, Data Policy & Practice, Digital Development, CABI

"One of the biggest challenges of FAIR is that it does require some larger institutions and operators to get onboard to make it easier for others"

We know from work with investments across different geographies that those focused on data generation, management and sharing have enabled large strides towards improving agricultural decision support, soil health, farm productivity and yields.

The value of good governance of data assets and digital infrastructures is increasingly recognized by experts, especially with a rise in awareness of the potential of AI-supported tools, but effective management to drive data reuse is often still considered as an afterthought in many initiatives.

There is a need to encourage greater intentionality and efficiency in the development of FAIR and responsibly managed digital assets, and to be more adaptive to local demand for information. Research funders and development investors are in an enviable position to drive meaningful change. Funders can play a proactive role by enabling investment in FAIR, making it a funding condition, or in emphasizing the importance of promoting existing data management tools and resources.

As we approach the final sprint to build the FAIR Process Framework for the foundation, it's time to think about how we ensure that what we have learned and what we have produced reaches well beyond the investments we've helped so far. How do we take FAIR and responsible data practices, and the benefits they bring – from money- and time-saving to opportunity gain and innovation opportunities – to scale? Where can one meaningfully 'move the dial'?

One way is to work with the critical mass of digital and data specialists that span the CGIAR and the Project Officers that seek to support them. We've been able to identify great examples of FAIR and responsible data practice in some recent investments the foundation has made in the CGIAR. We need to flag good practice where it exists and to create 'recipes' for successful data management that foundation POs can invest in within future large CGIAR investments and potentially across a wider community of investments, within AgDev and beyond.

Knowledge Share – FAIR-informed insights in Ethiopia

By Ameen Jauhar, Data Governance Lead, CABI

CABI continues to work promoting evidence-based strategic insight on data governance to governments wanting to support FAIR in agriculture

The background

To enhance digital agriculture, the Ministry of Agriculture (MoA) in Ethiopia has been undertaking work on a Digital Agriculture Roadmap (DAR).

What is the Digital Agriculture Roadmap?

The DAR aims to consolidate work on different digital initiatives in Ethiopia's ag sector. It sets out a multi-year process for implementing use-cases that digitize and improve services such as access to credit, procurement of inputs, ag advisory, and access to market.

What is CABI's role?

CABI was commissioned by the foundation to examine the data governance component; that is, to facilitate easier data access, sharing and management, in accordance with FAIR and responsible data principles.

What has CABI done so far?

CABI has conducted:

- A detailed desk review.
- In-country interviews with pertinent stakeholders across the government, ag researchers and academics, and private sector actors and partners.
- Compiled findings and recommendations for the Agri sector in general, and specifically for the DAR.
- Validated findings at the international convening on the DAR in May 2024.

What is next?

CABI is preparing a more detailed report of key findings, analysis and recommendations for the foundation, to aid its strategy and planning for investments in digital agriculture in Ethiopia, within the DAR and beyond.

Knowledge share – Creating a DSA in Malawi (1)

Analyzing the data landscape and ecosystem for the MaDiPHS project in Malawi using the FAIR Process Framework

Using FAIR Process Framework tools

FAIR and responsible data sharing is crucial to so many agricultural projects and investments. In Malawi, CABI collaborated with partners on implementing steps from the FAIR Process Framework [Alpha] to augment the MaDiPHS project.

After workshops on the value of FAIR, CABI created an environment and process to enable discussion of how data used and generated by the project would be supported by FAIR and responsible sharing practices.

By bringing together insights and lived experience with desk research into the literature, and current practices and legislation governing data sharing in Malawi, the team could assess the data landscape and start the work of helping project leaders draft and ratify Data Sharing Agreements (DSA).

Aligning stakeholders and data holders with process

CABI helped stakeholders and data holders forge and agree upon a DSA, built using the tools in the FAIR Process Framework.

CABI then supported the agricultural project teams in Malawi in drafting and ratifying a DSA between data holders and the lead project partner NIBIO. They followed a clear process to:

- Map data needed by the project.

- Identify institutions that own, oversee, and manage the data.

- Engage the individuals who will be responsible for developing and reviewing the DSA.

- Draft the DSA using an existing template.

- Share a draft with data holders for review/input.

- Validate with data holders and partners in a workshop setting.

Lessons learned

They concluded with securing approval and the signatures of representatives from Malawi's Ministry of Agriculture, the Ministry of Justice legal team, and other stakeholders, and reflected on lessons learned, including recognition of the value of co-creation of approaches and guidelines.

To read more detail and find out how using tools from the FAIR Process Framework has helped enable changes in outputs and build the right structures and systems to facilitate responsible data sharing, read this about this when it joins other CABI project editorial on Gates Open Research.

A key learning was how well this activity helped build understanding of the enabling environment, working with senior decision- and policymakers, including in government, and the conditions needed to ensure data sharing were achieved. These findings were corroborated in interviews with stakeholders

Knowledge share – Creating a DSA in Malawi (2)

Analyzing the data landscape and ecosystem for MaDiPHS project in Malawi using the FAIR Process Framework

"For planning and implementation of projects and programs, data sharing among various stakeholders is very key and also prior to data sharing, data quality issues on FAIR are paramount."

— Workshop Participant

Find out more in this ongoing project in this CABI blog or the article stored on the foundation open portal

Image Participants discussing the lessons learnt from developing MaDiPHS data sharing agreement (Credit: CABI)

"Synergy among government departments in data sharing is vital."

— Workshop Participant

This is an ongoing project (2022 - 2027). To read more on this update see the longer editorial on Gates Open Research, which will upload soon.

The user-centric focus in the soil and agronomy sector was key to developing and implementing the SADS directive, and maintaining that engagement will ensure the buy-in needed for its success.

Dr Negussie Efa Gurmessa
Scientist and Country Programmes Manager, CABI
Three-Day Workshop, Ethiopia, March, 2024

FAIR Advocacy – Workshops in Zambia and Ethiopia

Supporting the development of soil information sharing platforms and governance, ZamSIS, SADS and NSIS

17-18 April, Lusaka, Zambia

CABI and project partner ISRIC led a workshop to co-develop a roadmap towards Zambia soil information system (ZamSIS) design with implementing partner SoilFER (FAO), supporting institutions ZARI, UNZA and other key stakeholders.

CABI's Project Coordinator, Melissa Allan, facilitated a co-creation session using a data ecosystem mapping approach for ZamSIS taken from the FAIR Process Framework. It showed the collection, sharing and utilization of data
across the network and helped unravel the complex framework of digital data interactions, clarifying how each stakeholder contributes to, and derives value from, the data ecosystem. By mapping out who is responsible for areas such as data collection, platform development and data sharing, stakeholders could see how to streamline operations and foster best practice.

The discursive session showed widespread acknowledgement of the need for data sharing policies/agreements. As a test-bed for CABI tools, Allan noted: "The workbooks from the EDA3 project were incredibly useful in supporting facilitation of sessions, and the outputs can continue to serve SoilFER's development of ZamSIS, engage stakeholders, identify digital innovation and strategize on capacity building."

Read more in this CABI blog

March, Ethiopia

In March, the Ethiopian Ministry of Agriculture, CABI and GIZ collaborated to organize a three-day workshop.

The event was designed to raise awareness around data sharing initiatives, with particular focus on disseminating learnings from CABI's collaborative work with partners on the Soil and Agronomy Data Sharing (SADS) directive and the National Soil Information System (NSIS). More than 60 experts and various regional and national representative from agriculture offices, research institutes, universities and non-governmental and international organizations attended.

It was an invaluable opportunity to strengthen relationships and re-engage with in-country stakeholders and to highlight the need for comprehensive, high-quality FAIR databases. It also allowed the team to join in with enthusiastic discussions around generating similar guidance across other agricultural sectors in the region.

Read more in this CABI blog written by Ameen Jauhar.

FAIR Advocacy – ICTforAg 2024

Localizing impact through inclusion, inspiration and innovation

May 28-30, 2024, Nairobi, Kenya
ICTforAg conference

CABI presented at **ICTforAg** in Nairobi this May. The conference theme was designed to explore the potential for utilizing Information and Communication Technologies (ICTs) to address challenges in agriculture. It is also a platform for exploring novel pathways to enhance the prosperity of farmers and rural communities worldwide.

The conference took place across five geographical locations (and online) and was a forum for innovators, policymakers, researchers and investors to converged to explore the transformative power of ICTs.

Henry Mibei's presentation focused on the FAIR Process Framework and how it fosters responsible data sharing and collaboration across diverse stakeholders while ensuring data is findable, accessible, interoperable and reusable.

The event allowed CABI to showcase tangible outcomes achieved through the stages of our Enabling Data Access project so far, including the development and ratification of the Soil and Agronomy Data Sharing (SADS) Directive, capacity building initiatives, and the establishment of collaborative platforms for data exchange.

We presented the FAIR Process Framework, derived from more than five years of in-country experience and research across multiple geographies (including Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda and India).

The event also allowed the team to have discussion around the value of using the FAIR Process Framework in operationalizing planning for FAIR: how to collect, store, manage and share data for agricultural.

Read more about the ICTforAg Event here.

Knowledge Share – FAIR and the Private Sector

Research in practice

The incentive for a commercial organization to use FAIR data is that it turns the resource of data held by the organization from an inconvenience into something valuable. Data as a resource is a huge potential asset for an organization.

While exploring how data sharing has benefited private sector organizations, we've found that using data from different sources has the potential to create great value.

"We help individual farmers in our network understand their own farm data to help them make better, more sustainable decisions. We work with an independent data collection agency, Market Probe, to collect and analyze their data and compare it to growers in their region. It's this process of local benchmarking that helps them identify improvement areas."

- *Syngenta Source*

More information about the benefits of FAIR for private sector actors will be available in The FAIR Process Framework Resources

* Picture credit – CIMMYT/Kipenz Films

Knowledge share – Case Studies and articles

Understanding the enablers and disablers of mainstreaming FAIR, CABI learnings so far as we implement FAIR practices

Since the inception of EDA3, we have built a body of work that acts as evidence for the positive benefits of, and tangible learnings from, implementing different tools, resources, methodologies and insights across a range of projects united by benefiting from FAIR and responsible data practices.

Several CABI Case Studies and articles relating to the EDA3 project have been posted on the Gates Open Research gateway. These contain valuable insights that show POs and grantees exactly what interventions we have explored and executed, and how they have had impact on different investments at different stages.

They range from exploring how funders and governments can create policy 'with teeth' to how interventions such as identifying data problems, convening and educating stakeholders on FAIR data principles, deploying capacity building techniques or mapping data ecosystems, can be beneficial.

CASE STUDY ill metrics

How an effective 'enabling learning environment' can impact at an investment, individual and organizational level and beyond – the ACIAR Case Study

CAB International

PUBLISHED 28 MAY 2024

TECHNICAL REPORT ill metrics

FAIR and Open data alignment across excellence in agronomy initiative related organizations

CAB International

PUBLISHED 17 MAY 2024

CASE STUDY ill metrics

The lasting impact of advocating for and facilitating FAIR-informed practice in soil and agronomy – the case of the Coalition of the Willing (CoW) and Ethiopia's Soil and Agronomy Data Sharing (SADS) directive.

CAB International

PUBLISHED 21 MAR 2024

CASE STUDY ill metrics

Understanding the enablers and disablers of mainstreaming FAIR – the Case of CGIAR

CAB International

PUBLISHED 11 MAR 2024

Module 1: Considering data in investments

Module 2: Assessing in-country potential for data sharing

Module 3: Reusing data from third-party sources

Module 4: Protecting individual's rights when sharing data

Module 5: Sharing data through data licensing

Show More ⌄

Our Links

Data Sharing Toolkit

CABI Academy

CABI

The Open Data Institute

Knowledge Share – FAIR Resources

*Curated resources that enable FAIR and responsible data sharing*

"Our team and collaborators continue to seek out and explore new resources relevant to the FAIR Process Framework to support the beneficiaries as they strive to make data FAIR within their investment domains."

— Arun Jadhav
Digital Development Manager, CABI

Consequence Scanning Agile Toolkit

This toolkit, featured in Tech Transformed, focuses on consequence scanning and the development of products. The toolkit includes a Consequence Scanning Manual, Printable Headings, a Recommended Structure, Case Studies, Consequence Prompts and Unintended Consequence Prompts. Download the toolkit here.

TECHTRANSFORMED

Consequence Scanning

An Agile event for Responsible Innovators
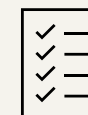
SATIFYD

The Self-Assessment Tool to Improve the FAIRness of Your Dataset (SATIFYD) is a 12-question assessment to help users see exactly how Findable, Accessible, Interoperable and Reusable their datasets are. It also includes strategies to improve a dataset's FAIRness score. (Hosted: Data archiving and networked services).

Key Dates – Conferences and events

This summer, the foundation will host webinars for partners, grantees and POs 2025 Open Access Policy refresh

July 10, 2024

Introducing VeriXiv, Online Webinar, *Unlocked*, (the foundation's Open Access Newsletter)

Time: 8:00am PDT/10:00am CDT/11:00am EDT/ 4:00pm BST

Register here: zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_CczliqyNSTyrbPT00AEy0Q

The foundation's Open Access Policy refresh, slated for 2025, will require preprinting of research. This webinar introduces VeriXiv, a "verified preprint platform designed to speed up the availability of new findings and uphold research integrity". It will also explain the policy changes and support available for grantees to comply with the requirements.

Registrants will receive a recording if they cannot attend.

July 22, 2024

Demystifying Preprints: The Benefits of Early Sharing in Research, *Unlocked*, (the foundation's Open Access Newsletter)

Time: 7:00am PDT/9:00am CDT/10:00am EDT/ 3:00pm BST

Register here: zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_unOF8nhbSNGFJdf3LTXn-g

What are 'Preprints'? Do you have experience of early data sharing? This webinar explore the support for grantees to comply with the revised policy and looks at the benefits of early sharing or preprinting and how you can utilize the foundation's new tool VeriXiv (launching in August 2024).

Registrants will receive a recording if they cannot attend.

August 8, 2024

How to Submit and Publish a Verified Preprint on VeriXiv *Unlocked*, (the foundation's Open Access Newsletter)

Time: 8:00am PDT/10:00am CDT/11:00am EDT/ 4:00pm BST

Register here: zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MuHdofaNQ7eVV2JPv4U9Mg

Join us for a demo of VeriXiv, including both the submission and publication processes. It will explain the author requirements and all the pre-publication ethics and integrity checks entailed with this new form of submission. It will also "outline the requirements for authors to publish both a 'verified preprint' and an 'open research preprint'," and detail the checks involved.

Registrants will receive a recording if they cannot attend.

Key Dates – Conferences

Conferences, events, calendar dates

July 12-16, 2024
Launch discussions re: FAIR Process Framework [Alpha] release
Seattle

The CABI team will be joining POs and wider staff across the AgDev in Seattle this month to showcase the FAIR Process Framework in its alpha form. We will also discuss how the framework and its tools have already had an impact in AgDev investments, and how it will evolve as we build out the BETA version of an online tool to be used by POs and grantees.

If you would like to meet with the team while we are out in Seattle, do please get in touch with Chipo, Martin or Zoe via fair@cabi.org

September 2- 6, 2024
Africa's Food Systems Forum 2024 Annual Summit
Kigali

The 2024 annual summit will take place in Kigali, Rwanda, where delegates will interrogate the themes of the title 'Innovate, Accelerate and Scale: Delivering food systems transformation in a digital and climate era'.

As the premier global forum for African agriculture and food systems, CABI will be represented. We will be there to talk to stakeholders about practical actions and learnings around FAIR and responsible data governance, which have the power to unlock data, protect soils, and help move African food systems forward.

Registration for the in-person event is now open.

October, 2024
CABI team to launch the FAIR Process Framework [BETA]
Seattle

We will reveal the FAIR Process Framework in its BETA form, as a workable, useable tool with a foundation PO-friendly interface to enable POs and grantees to work together to integrate FAIR data Principles and responsible data practices into investment!

We cannot wait to see you then.

FAIR Insights from Agriculture

News, views and research

Establishing a Common Language for Data in Agriculture - Global AgTech Initiative

Global AgTech Initiative [4-min read]

In practice, being data-driven can mean using various data sources and tech within single projects or programmes. Relying on multiple data structures can cause errors and impair tracking business performance. Samantha Murray of CDMS, Proagrica calls for a solution…

Solving wicked problems: ISO's Technical Committee 347 on Data-Driven Agrifood Systems LinkedIn [6-min read]

What rules and recipes for data interoperability are needed for effective data-driven solutions to address issues posed by population growth, the climate crisis, water scarcity, land degradation and supply chain disruption? This LinkedIn newsletter also argues that standards could help enable "the exchange and unambiguous understanding of data at scale".

What are the enablers for data infrastructure to power change? D4Ag [90-min watch]

Low- and middle-income countries are in a period of rapid change. This online session from Digital Agri Hub tracks and discusses developments on data governance in the sector, including new laws and regulations, the lack of affordable digital networks for rural communities, and problems associated with interoperability and scale.

How can precision agriculture become a reality? Food Navigator Europe [2-min read]

Will precision agriculture ever be adopted? This article in Food Navigator Europe looks at the need for strong quality data for AI interventions and the role that networks and peer advocacy might play in encouraging the adoption of technical tools and processes to enhance food growing.

"Affordable access to digital networks and digital public goods are paramount to unleash the potential of rural communities…"

— Henry van Burgsteden, FAO, D4Ag seminar

Found an article you'd like us to share? Send it to FAIR@cabi.org

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FAIR Insights from Agriculture and Beyond

News, views and research

How to develop and assess a FAIR-Compliant Dataset for LLM Training? ArXivLabs [40+ min read]

Updated Canadian research that starts with a literature review, detailing the importance of FAIR data principles for model training. It then showcases a new framework that puts FAIR principles into the LLM training process. The approach includes checklists for researchers and developers to aid the consistent application of FAIR through "the model development lifecycle".

Data Economy Rule models collaboration in data sharing Sitra [1+ min read]

Actors across the transport ecosystem in Finland and the EU are signing up to the Rule Book for a Fair Data Economy. Described as a 'co-farming agreement' it helps networks agree on the conditions and purposes for sharing data.

Found an article you'd like us to share?
Send it to FAIR@cabi.org

Research finds collaboration is key to FAIRification at scale University of Amsterdam [2-min read]

This release from the University of Amsterdam details the key finding of a PhD thesis exploring the attitudes of researchers and research support staff charged with FAIR implementation, and how 'making data FAIR' can be baked into the set-up of academic research projects.

Deep dive in to applying FAIR principles to a R&D culture Data Science Central [60-min listen]

Podcast featuring Ben Gardner of AstraZeneca talking about the organization's approach to making its R&D data FAIR. It covers the need for incremental changes to 'boost data quality' without disrupting existing practices, utilizing technology and tooling, entering at right level of the data layer, and success factors.

A new framework for making FAIR data interoperable and SAFE in cloud-based environments Nature [20-min watch]

This article introduces a new 'companion concept' to FAIR that tackles the four key obstacles that researchers perceived when analysing how FAIR data is stored in cloud-based environments. The technical note with vocabulary guide suggests a Secure and Authorized FAIR Environment (SAFE) framework.

Introduction to the European Data Act Orrick [8-min read]

This guide (updated after the Act was passed into law this year) provides an accessible introduction to how the EDA applies, and what it means for different organizations and individuals operating in the data ecosystem within the region.

FAIR *Process Framework*
Beta Coming Soon

Innovation in sustainability from CABI

Enabling Data Access — FAIR Process Framework by CABI

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The FAIR Journal

Authored by the EDA3 team at CABI for the foundation

Thank you for reading our journal – is there anyone who you think would benefit from receiving a copy? Forward this deck directly or email FAIR@cabi.org and we can add them to the list.

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