

The Grants Lab

Sharing Lessons on SDG Monitoring Capacities

What different initiatives and grants learned about RBM and data use



Highlights from the Grants Lab

On 8 December 2022, AVANTI led 'The Grants Lab' to share lessons on SDG monitoring capacity, Results Based Management (RBM) and data use. AVANTI's Flagship publication – which details key outcomes and learning from the project's implementation – was also presented alongside the initiative's AG-Scan approach and tool.

The webinar was open to various UN agencies, development organizations, and other interested stakeholders, with over 150 participants joining from 56 countries.

Watch the recording: [The Grants Lab - 8 December 2022](#)

What were the key messages of the discussion?

- Optimal use of data is crucial for informing decision-makers at all levels, and large quantities of data are collected and available. However, it is difficult to aggregate data for different purposes and prepare it for potential users.
- 'Soft' skills such as leadership are highly important in creating a conducive environment for effective RBM.
- Targeted investment is needed to ensure high-quality data and data use at the national and sub-national levels.
- Using different data collection and processing methodologies adds challenges to sharing, aggregating and interpreting information and hampers coordination between various users.
- Embedding monitoring and evaluation systems and RBM at the top level is crucial to establishing governments' mandate, coordination and ownership of data and its use in evidence-based decision-making.
- Although there are significant technical challenges to establishing effective monitoring systems, changes in organizational culture towards more collaborative ways of working are equally important.
- The participatory approach of the AG-Scan methodology creates space for open policy dialogue among stakeholders.

Important takeaways from AVANTI's Flagship Publication launch

- The art of managing data from the beginning to ensure its effective use allows the use of evidence for decision-making; this is crucial to improve positive impact in the rural sector.
- Leadership is an important driver for data use and evidence generation that creates a result and learning culture and shared ownership of the process.
- The AG-Scan approach emphasizes the involvement of key public and private players in rural development and multi-stakeholder participation, e.g., NGOs and academia, which contribute to greater exchange between multiple actors and shared ownership, both of which are required for robust, sustainable development.
- Adequate capacities of engaged ministry staff around data collection, management and use are needed to provide useful, consistent, and relevant evidence.

Useful resources introduced

Find out more about the AVANTI initiative, the AG-Scan approach, in-country workshops and links to tools: [AVANTI Publications](#)

Read the AVANTI Flagship Publication: [Exploring Results-based Management Capacities through Self-Assessment](#)

Speakers

Dr Abdulkareem Lawal – AVANTI AG-Scan country team lead, Principal Consultant, Itad, UK

Prof. Ian Goldman – President International Evaluation Academy, Advisor on Evaluation and Evidence Systems, Global Evaluation Initiative / Clear Anglophone Africa

Ms. Renata Mirulla – Facilitator EvalForward, Community of Practice on Evaluation in agriculture, food security and rural development, FAO, Italy

Ms. Ethel Sibanda – AVANTI AG-Scan methodology lead, Principal Consultant, Itad, UK

Moderator

Dr. Riff Fullan, AVANTI Knowledge Lead, Head of Learning and Innovation, Helvetas

Team

Kai Schrader, AVANTI Team Leader, kai.schrader@helvetas.org

Riff Fullan, Knowledge and Workstream Leader, riff.Fullan@helvetas.org

Abdulkareem Lawal, AG-Scan Team Leader, abdulkareem.Lawal@itad.com

Cesar Robles, Knowledge Consultant, cesar.robles@helvetas.org

Emmeline Henderson, Knowledge Consultant, emmeline@insightful.exchange

Gabriele Maneo, Project Management Consultant, gabriele.maneo@itad.com

Merve Genc, Liaison Consultant, m.genc@ifad.org

Learn more and get in touch:

Web: www.avantiagriculture.org / <https://bit.ly/Avanti-Publications>

Contacts:

Kai Schrader, AVANTI Team Leader, kai.schrader@helvetas.org

Cesar Robles, Knowledge Consultant, cesar.robles@helvetas.org

Merve Genc, Liaison Consultant, merve.genc@ifad.org