

<p>STANDARD SECTOR INDICATOR CODE: AG-036 FTF (FTF Code: EG.3.2-20)</p>	<p>New Technologies and Practices - Adoption by Organizations: Number of for-profit private enterprises, producers organizations, water users associations, women’s groups, trade and business associations and community-based organizations (CBOs) that applied improved organization-level technologies or management practices with Peace Corps assistance. (AG-036 FTF)</p>
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<p>AGRICULTURE SECTOR</p>	<p>Sector Schematic Alignment <i>Note: This indicator belongs to the “Markets” Project Area and “Business Development Services” Project Activities/Training Package (PA/TP) within the AG Sector but is borrowed by the following Project Activities/Training Packages within the ENV Sector.</i></p> <p><u>AG Sector (“Home” of the SSI)</u> PA/TP: Business Development Services</p> <p><u>AG Sector</u> PA/TP: Staple Crops, Gardens, Small Animal Husbandry, Agroforestry, Post-harvest Management, Income Generation Activities</p> <p><u>ENV Sector</u> PA/TP: Agroforestry, Business Development Services & Income Generation Activities</p>
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<p>Type: Outcome</p>	<p>Unit of Measure: Organizations</p>	<p>Disaggregation: Type of organization: Private enterprise, Producers’ organizations, Fishing associations, Water users associations, Women’s group, Trade and business associations, Community-based organizations (CBOs)</p>
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Definitions:

Total number of private enterprises (processors, input dealers, storage and transport companies), producer associations, cooperatives, water users associations, fishing associations, women’s groups, trade and business associations and community-based organizations (CBOs), including those focused on natural resource management, that applied new technologies or management practices at the organization level with Peace Corps assistance during the fiscal year. **Organization-level technologies and management practices include those in areas such as management (financial, planning, human resources), member services, procurement, technical innovations (processing, storage), quality control, marketing, etc.** Only count the entity once per fiscal year, even if multiple technologies or management practices are applied.

Count the organization (enterprise, association, cooperative or CBO) applying an improved technology or management practice as one entity, and not as the number of employees or membership. For example, if a farmers' association incorporates improved maize storage as a part of member services, the application is counted as one association and not multiplied by the number of farmer-members. However, if individual direct beneficiaries then use the association's maize storage service to improve the post-harvest handling of their production, they can be counted under **AG-003 FTF** “Number of farmers and others who have applied improved technologies.”

Peace Corps assistance/training may include but is not limited to: financial aid, workshops, demonstrations, lessons, service delivery, or activities conducted by any agency or organization of the U.S. government or any contractor working at the direction of the U.S. government. These activities typically are conducted to provide participants with knowledge

and/or skills, technical assistance, learning opportunities, services or expand coverage for services, etc.

Fiscal year – October 1 to September 30

Rationale:

This indicator tracks private sector and civil society behavior change to increase agricultural sector productivity.

Measurement Notes:

- 1. Sample Tools and/or Possible Methods (for Peace Corps staff use):** Volunteers should use data collection tools to measure progress against project indicators. A data collection tool to measure this indicator could be based on one of the following methods—secondary data record of organizational records, survey, observation, or interview—though there may be other data collection methods that are appropriate as well. For more information on the suggested methods, please see **Appendix I in the MRE Toolkit**. Also be sure to check the intranet page as sample tools are regularly uploaded for post use. Once a tool has been developed, post staff should have a few Volunteers and their partners pilot it, and then distribute and train Volunteers on its use.
- 2. General Data Collection for Volunteer Activities:** All Volunteer activities should be conducted with the intention of achieving outcomes – knowledge change (short-term), skills demonstration (intermediate-term), and behavioral changes (intermediate to long term) as defined by the progression of indicators within the objectives of a project framework. The progression of measurement for all Volunteer activities should begin with baseline data being conducted prior to the implementation of an activity (or set of activities), followed by documenting any outputs of the activities and then later at the appropriate time, measurements of specific outcomes (see “Frequency of Measurement”).
- 3. Activity-Level Baseline Data Collection:** Activity-level baseline data should be collected by Volunteers/partners before or at the start of their activities with an organization or group of organizations. It provides a basis for planning and/or assessing subsequent progress or impact with these same organizations. Volunteers should take a baseline measurement regarding the outcome(s) defined in this indicator (i.e. determine whether or not an organization in question has adoption new technologies or management practices before working with the Volunteer) early in their work focused on adoption of new technologies or management practices by organizations. The information for the baseline measurement will be the same or very similar to the information that will be collected in the follow-on measurement (see “Frequency of Measurement”) after the Volunteer has conducted his/her activities and it is usually collected using the same data collection tool to allow for easy management of the data over time.

Because Volunteers are expected to implement relevant and focused activities that will promote specific changes within a target population (see the “unit of measure” above), taking a baseline measurement helps Volunteers to develop a more realistic snapshot of the organizations within the target population are in their process of change instead of assuming that they are starting at “0”. It also sets up Volunteers to be able to see in concrete terms what influence their work is having on the organizations they work with during their service. Please note that data collection is a sensitive process and so Volunteers will not want to take a baseline measurement until they have been able to do some relationship and trust-building with the person/people the Volunteer is working with, and developed an understanding of cultural norms and gender dynamics.

- 4. Frequency of Measurement:** For reporting accurately on this outcome indicator, Volunteers must take a minimum of two measurements with organizations of the target population reached with their activities. After taking the baseline measurement (described above), Volunteers should take at least one follow-on measurement

with the same firm(s), typically after completing one or more activities focused on achieving the outcome in this indicator and once they have determined that the timing is appropriate to expect that the outcome has been achieved. Please note that successful documentation of a behavior change or new practice may not be immediately apparent following the completion of activities and may need to be planned for at a later time. Once Volunteers have measured that at least one organization has achieved the indicator, they should report on it in their next VRF.

Volunteers may determine to take more than one baseline and one follow-on measurement with the same organization (or group of organizations) for the following valid reasons:

- a. Volunteers may want to measure whether or not any additional organizations initially reached with activities have now achieved the outcome in the indicator, particularly for any activities that are on-going in nature (no clear end date);
- b. Volunteers may want to enhance their own learning and the implementation of their activities by using the data collected as an effective monitoring tool and feedback mechanism for the need to improve or increase their activities;
- c. A Peace Corps project in a particular country may choose to increase the frequency of measurement of the indicator and Volunteers assigned to that project will be required to follow in-country guidance.

In all cases, any additional data collection above the minimum expectation should be based on the time, resources, accessibility to the target population, and the value to be gained versus the burden of collecting the data. Following any additional measurements taken, Volunteers should report on any new organizations achieving the outcome in their next VRF.

5. **Definition of Change:** The minimum change to report against this indicator is an organization applied new technologies or management practices as compared to what was measured initially at baseline. In the case of this indicator, if the organization the Volunteer/partner works with already cultivated improved crop varieties that increase yields before beginning to work with the Volunteer/partner, then the Volunteer would not be able to count it for this activity because the Volunteer's work did not actually lead to the desired change. However, if as a result of working with the Volunteer/partner, the organization decides to implement improved land preparation practices, such as contour or minimal tillage, which would count because the Volunteer's work influenced the adoption of improved tillage practices.
6. **General Reporting in the VRF:** The "number achieved" (or numerator) that Volunteers will report against for this indicator in their VRFs is the number of organizations who applied a new technology or management practice during the fiscal year, after working with the Volunteer/partner. The "total number" (or denominator) that Volunteers will report on for this indicator in their VRFs is the total number of organizations who participated in the activities designed to meet this indicator.
7. **Reporting on Disaggregated Data in the VRF:** This indicator is disaggregated by multiple categories; "Type of Organization" and "Duration". Due to the functionality of the VRF, the Volunteer will see a table to enter the disaggregated data for the "Type of Organization" category. Then the Volunteer will see a box to enter disaggregated data for the "Duration"; new and continuing. The totals for each disaggregation category ("Type of Organization" and "Duration") **MUST** be equal. **PLEASE NOTE:** Volunteers should check, before submitting their VRF to see if the totals are equal.

PLEASE NOTE: After a Volunteer submits their first VRF, the data entered into the "Duration" box will be editable, so a Volunteer should make sure that the sum of the "Duration" (new and continuing) **REMAINS** equal

to the “New Achieved Total” column in the “Type of Organization” disaggregation table.

Data Quality Assessments (DQA): DQAs are needed for each indicator selected to align with the project objectives. DQAs review the validity, integrity, precision, reliability, and timeliness of each indicator. For more information, consult the Peace Corps MRE Toolkit.

Alignment with Summary Indicator: AG. ADOPT. IMPROVED PRACTICES (ORGS & GROUPS), & ENV. ADOPT INCOME-GEN. ACTIVITIES (ORGS.)