Overview of Priority Fields and Proposed Changes to IATI Standard

The Initiative for Open Ag Funding supports efforts to end hunger and food insecurity by ensuring organizations have the information they need to make smarter investments in the agriculture and food security sector. As a starting point, the Initiative consulted donors, foundations and NGOs to better understand their data needs and gauge whether those needs are met by the data that is currently publicly available. These inputs served as a basis for developing recommendations related to which fields organizations should prioritize when publishing data to IATI, as well as for proposed changes to the IATI Standard to make it more relevant to those working in this sector.

Priority Fields

The latest version of the IATI Standard (version 2.02) requires only a small number of fields. If a publisher only provides data on these required fields, then many of the questions that users of agricultural investment data may have cannot be answered.

We have identified **20 components** that publishers should provide for all their agricultural investments in order to better meet the needs of data users. These are listed in the table below.* In most cases, we have also included a section on why this information is important for meeting user needs.

In addition, to increase trust in and use of data publishers should provide clearer information on the provenance, quality, and timeliness of their IATI data, and consider establishing feedback loops with users.

Note: Components and attributes required under IATI are in **bold text.*

Component	Quality requirements & user needs	Attributes
1. **Reporting Organization**	Constant value. Including an organization identifier.	Reporting Org Name **Reporting Org Ref** **Reporting Org Type** Secondary Reporter
2. Metadata	Default currencies and languages used in reporting.	Default Lang Default Currency
3. **Activity ID**	Activities should be described at a suitable level of granularity. For example, different projects in the same country should not be bundled together in reporting. **Why this is needed:** A unique ID is necessary for tracking all available information about a project.	Activity ID
4. **Activity Title**	A clear and comprehensible project title that indicates the focus of the activity. **Why this is needed:** Clear, recognizable titles make it easier for users to find information about a project they may be involved in or affected by - especially at the local level. It can also facilitate the integration of data into other systems, such as aid information management systems.	Activity Title
5. **Activity Status**	Information about activities should be regularly updated	**Activity Status Code**
6. **Activity Dates** *(at least one required)*	Start and end dates, either planned or actual. **Why this is needed:** Users need to know when a project is taking place so they can take that into account in their own planning.	Activity Date **Activity Date Type**

Component	**Quality requirements & user needs**	**Attributes**
7. **Activity Descriptions**	Distinct descriptions should be provided for: ● General description of activity ● Objectives of activity ● Target groups of activity **Why this is needed:** Users expressed a need for more details about the work being done and information on what a project is trying to accomplish. This enables them to better understand other organizations' priorities or plan their own activities. Users also want more information on who is meant to benefit from an activity so they can better target their own programs. This includes data on the *number* of individuals being served, as well as details about the groups being targeted.	Activity Description Description Language Description Type Code
8. Aid Classifications	Classifications against core IATI fields for: Collaboration Type, Default Flow Type, Default Finance Type, Default Aid Type and Default Tied Status. **Why this is needed:** Many forms of aggregate analysis of the aid and funding landscape rely on being able to break-down funding flows based on the kinds of organizations giving funding, the forms of funding being given (e.g. general support for government budgets, funding directly to a specific project, or loans and guarantees), and whether or not there are conditions that 'tie' the aid to being spent on particular countries goods and services. These fields provide internationally agreed categorizations to support that analysis. In most cases, donors may able to either set a constant value for fields (e.g. when all the funding they give is non-tied), or they may be able to only use a sub-set of the full codelist to select from in their systems.	Collaboration Type Default Flow Type Default Finance Type Default Aid Type Default Tied Status

Component	Quality requirements & user needs	Attributes
9. Sector Classification	Classification against OECD DAC Sector codes, plus additional taxonomies, including (tbc): ● AGROVOC ● Agricultural Technology Ontology **Why this is needed:** Classifying projects by sector or more agriculture-specific taxonomies allows users to quickly determine which projects might be relevant to their work. This can be useful for identifying gaps and informing program design. The OECD DAC purpose codes, used by many publishers, serve as a common language making data from different organizations more comparable, but appear not to be granular enough for practitioners in this sector. Use of agriculture-specific taxonomies could provide the specificity needed.	**Sector Code** Sector Percentage Sector Vocabulary Sector Vocabulary URI
10. **Participating Organizations** *(at least one required)*	Details on **all** participating organizations, including partners. This information should be kept updated as new partners are engaged with a project. **Why this is needed:** Users want to know which organizations are involved in a given project, particularly at the local level. This information is critical for forming partnerships, making funding decisions, coordination, or identifying who should be consulted in strategic planning or other processes.	Participating Org Name Participating Org Ref Participating Org Type **Participating Org Role**
11. Contact Details	At least one contact address for more information on the specific project. **Why this is needed:** Not all of information needs can be met with open data. Users regularly rely on - and value - meetings or other types of personal exchanges to gain a more in-depth understanding of others' work.	Contact Info Type Contact Organization Contact Person Name Contact Job Title Contact Telephone Contact Email Contact Mailing Address Contact Website

Component	Quality requirements & user needs	Attributes
12. Documents	Any relevant and associated project documents should be published and linked to. Examples of useful documents include: project plans, monitoring data, interim reports and evaluations. **Why this is needed:** Users' information needs go beyond what can be met with structured data. In-depth understanding of a project, its progress, and its effectiveness requires access to relevant project documents. Access to studies or assessments carried out by other organizations can also prevent unnecessary duplication of efforts.	Document Title Document URL Document Category Code Document Language Code Document Format Code Document Date
13. Location (Country/Region)	Including information on percentage of project in each country or region (when more than one is present).	**Country Code** **Region Code** Country or Region Percentage Region Vocabulary Region Vocabulary URI
14. Sub-national Location	Detailed information on the on-the-ground location where activities are taking place. Where possible, this should be to the geographic precision of second order administrative division (ADM2). **Why this is needed:** Users agree that just knowing the country where programs are being implemented is insufficient. Having information on the sub-national location of projects is crucial to leveraging existing programs, avoiding duplication, or even preventing the implementation of conflicting programs.	Location Ref Location Reach Code Location ID Code Location ID Vocabulary Location Name Location Description Location Activity Description Location Admin Code Location Admin Vocabulary Location Admin Level Point srsName Pos Exactness Code Location Class Code Feature Designation Code

Component	Quality requirements & user needs	Attributes
15. Budget	Year by year project budget information. **Why this is needed:** Knowing how funding will be spent over the lifetime of a project allows organizations to manage their own resources more effectively.	Budget Type Budget Start Date Budget End Date Budget Value Budget Currency Budget Value Date
16. Transaction	Information on the major transactions associated with the project, particularly commitments and disbursements to partners. **Why this is needed:** Organizations need to know the total budget of agricultural investments, in part to determine the scale of those efforts. For donors and foundations, this data is helpful for identifying which organizations they should talk to. It can also help organizations determine what level of resources they should invest. For certain users, it is also important to know how much funding is being provided to other organizations as part of a project, for accountability and other purposes.	**Transaction Type** **Transaction Date** **Transaction Value** Transaction Currency Transaction Value Date Transaction Description
17. Transaction Classification	Where possible, transactions should be classified against relevant sector codes (see Focus 3) **Why this is needed:** Providing classifications at the project/activity level can provide a general picture of the purpose and focus of a project. However, providing classifications at the level of transactions - which can also include information on organizations and locations - makes it possible to answer questions about who is involved in what type of work and where at a much more granular level.	Transaction Sector Code Transaction Sector Vocabulary Transaction Sector Vocabulary URI
18. Transaction Parties (participating organizations)	Transactions should clearly identify the partner receiving funding, and the relevant organization should be detailed under participating organizations.	Transaction Provider Name Transaction Provider Type Transaction Provider Ref

Component	Quality requirements & user needs	Attributes
	Why this is needed: Information on who is providing and receiving funding enables traceability and makes it possible to identify all the organizations involved in a project - as well as the relationships between them.	Transaction Receiver Name Transaction Receiver Type Transaction Receiver Ref
19. Transaction Traceability	Where possible, transactions should link onwards to related IATI activities (sometimes published by other organizations). **Why this is needed:** Without this information, it can be difficult - if not impossible - to determine whether activities reported separately are in fact related.	Transaction Provider Activity Ref Transaction Receiver Activity Ref
20. Results Information	Project should publish information on any indicators and benchmarks the project is oriented towards meeting, as well as any structured results data that is available. Even when results data is not available, the indicators by which a project impact will be measured should be published in a structured form, and associated results documents linked to via the document section. **Why this is needed:** To improve the effectiveness of agriculture and food security interventions, organizations need information on results. This includes data on outputs and outcomes, as well as information on *how* and *why* interventions succeeded so that organizations can fund or replicate successful approaches and avoid those that have achieved less positive results.	Result Type Result Title Result Description Indicator Title Indicator Measure Indicator Ascending Indicator Description Indicator Reference Code Indicator Reference Vocabulary Indicator Reference Vocabulary URI

Proposed Changes to IATI Standard

- Update the Sector Vocabulary codelist to include **AGROVOC** and the **Agricultural Technology Ontology**.
- Allow the **contact-info** element as a child element of **participating-org** in order to allow partner organization contact information to be collected, and supporting easier disambiguation of organizations.
- Update schema guidance to allow **sector classification at both activity and transaction level.**
- Update schema guidance to **allow secondary sector classifications to add up to less than 100%**.
- Update schema guidance to **allow sector classifications on some transactions, but not mandated for all**.