



Covid-19
Safety compliance

The advantages of SDGToolkit for
the user community



*SDGToolkit provides a project, framework and policy portfolio
management system with an extension support*

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Please note that all software modules are subject to improvement involving changes, additions and sometimes the removal of capabilities according to the evolution of the system design and operation. Therefore, what is described in this document might differ from the current operational system capabilities

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This document

1. This document provides a review of the principal advantages that arise from the use of SDGToolkit by user communities involved in the development of sustainable agricultural development projects in support of Sustainable Development Goals.
2. Further details on the structure and content of SDGToolkit can be obtained from the service website SDGToolkit.com
3. Additional documents available in the Boolean Library provide further details on why this Software-as-a-Service was developed as well as additional details of the overall provision of design and project cycle support

Definitions

The user community for SDGToolkit includes:

- Donors
- Beneficiaries
- Stakeholders

In this document this user community is referred to collectively as DBS.

Donors

Donors include any organizations that fund sustainable development projects in support of Sustainable Development Goals. They can include:

- International development organizations
- National development agencies
- Private NGOs & cooperatives
- Consultancies
- Individuals

Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries are the clients of the donor organizations and can include:

- Agricultural ministries and development agencies
- Environmental agencies
- Policy planners
- Policy monitoring and evaluation agents
- Agricultural research organizations
- Project teams
- Extension services
- Farmer cooperatives, organizations

Stakeholders

Stakeholder include the beneficiaries of projects designed and administered using SDGToolkit including:

- Local communities for whom a project is setup
- Sector actors
- Those with an interest in evaluating best practice

The general advantages of SDGToolkit

Covid-19

All SDGToolkit services are delivered remotely with users only requiring a browser to access the system using PCs, Laptops, Tablets or mobiles.

The system is therefore compliant with strict Covid-19 practice to protect the lives of all within the DBS community.

User environments need to permit team members to access the system individually and in a socially-distanced manner.

This mode of operation protects those delivering the service and beneficiary team members and donor personnel involved in oversight.

Economy

The cost of entry and operations for beneficiaries and stakeholders is zero during the assessment phase under the Sustainable Development Facility (SDF) grant system and 20% of the standard license fee for those who decide to make use of the system as a work resource. This grant license fee reduction only applied countries that fall within the lowest 143 countries measured on the basis of per capita incomes. [The list of low income countries can be found here.](#)

Minimization of operational requirements

The system has eliminated a range of operational complications and reduced access requirements to a browser as the only additional software required to operate the system.



Most browsers are free of charge.

Cost-Benefit for DBS

Donor benefits

Although donors provide the funds for the provision of SDGToolkit there are a range of benefits which will rise in value over time:

- Donor clients and their stakeholders become more proficient in managing project cycles using SDGToolkit.
- Over the life of a project the benefits include higher performance of projects by securing objectives that remain feasible
- Increasing competence of project teams in all aspects of project design and management
- On-the-job training of team members under the SDF provisions.
- The combination of analytical tools and a due diligence design procedure delivered remotely has two significant impacts over the project cycle:
 - o Far lower costs in the provision of technical support and oversight.
 - o Far higher standards of information and knowledge management and documentation
 - o Lessons learned are a real time process of immediate application and not an ex-post commentary

Beneficiary benefits

Beneficiary organization and individual team members transition into an advanced professional standard of practice by received free access the SDGToolkit and an expert on-the-job-training supporting gaps and needs analysis and the design and management of real projects.

- Under the Sustainable Development Facility provisions this training s received free of charge so the Cost-Benefit is increased.
- Project documentation and oversight is radically improved.
- Training includes instruction on the four phase cycle process including due diligence design and management procedures as well as training in the analytical tools that support procedural steps.

The Sustainable Development Facility (SDF)

The SDF subsidises the use of SDGToolkit on the basis of a free 6 month training and assessment period making use of the process approach recommended by ISI and OQSI.

The process approach

The SDF provides a 6 month training are system's appraisal period where users are under no financial obligations or any undertakings to purchase operational licenses.

The training takes users through the stepwise sequence including:



(ISO 9001; BSI; OQSI)

- Gaps and needs analysis
- Due diligence design procedures
- Final selected design specification
- Project management on basis of portfolio management
- Real time monitoring and evaluation to respond to change
- Monitoring and evaluation to identify lessons learned

This duration has been proposed to ensure on-the-job training and support can include the initiation of design and implementation management of projects and covering all aspects of the project cycle.

Therefore, this initiative merges normal project administration with a drive to improve the professional competence of project teams in apply a leading-edge standard in management quality based on the ***process approach*** recommended by ISO, BSI and the OQSI..

Stakeholder benefits

The ability to gain access and oversight of the documentation and analytical tool outputs that support design and implementation decisions provides stakeholders with the ability to trace in practice the development and outcomes of mutual decisions.

This capability encourages teams to engage more directly with stakeholders as a basis for improving their understanding of gaps and needs and which solutions represents those that are more acceptable to the stakeholder community.

Better policy definitions

Since gaps and needs assessment help shape policy the overall result is a high degree of coherence between defined strategic objectives and the quality of the projects identifies to support those objectives