

# Job Aid

## Foundation Grant Making Tools to Enable Data Access in AgDev

Supporting the availability and use of data—through our [Open Access commitments](#) and based on the principle of FAIR (findable, accessible, interoperable, and reusable)—is a key enabler of AgDev and the broader [foundation strategy](#). FAIR data enables smarter foundation resource allocation decisions, ensures field access to evidence, and powers LMIC-relevant innovations in digital and AI for farmers and other actors. **This document summarizes five key levers for POs to embed FAIR data practices into investments, linking to sections of the [FAIR Process Framework](#) for additional support.** As this job aid and the FAIR Process Framework are in beta testing, feedback from users is welcome and can be sent to [fair@cabi.org](mailto:fair@cabi.org).

### 1) Determining When to Check the Data Access Checkbox

Answering YES to any of the following questions means the ' <a href="#">Data Access Checkbox</a> ' should be checked under the Diligence section in INVEST. This will add a Data Access section to the proposal, ensuring data sharing and management requirements are addressed in the proposal.	
Will this investment generate new data, datasets, or research outputs (e.g., survey results, genetic data, sensor data, or experimental data) that could be valuable to future research, AI tools, or policymaking? Even incidental or passive data can hold strategic value.	Yes/No
Are there anticipated collaborations that require data sharing?	Yes/No
Are there specific compliance standards or protocols the data must adhere to for sharing and integration?	Yes/No
Are there any privacy, confidentiality, or intellectual property concerns that need to be addressed for sensitive data?	Yes/No

### 2) Responding to Data Access Questions in the Proposal

The following resources from the [FAIR Process Framework](#) assist Program Officers and grantees in addressing the [Data Access questions](#) in the proposal, aligning data-related goals, and planning for data sharing. Question 1 is crucial for establishing the scope of the investment, but grantees may lack the knowledge needed for detailed responses to questions 3, 4, and 5 at the proposal stage. In such cases, grantees can submit these details as part of a post-award [Data Management and Access Plan \(DMAP\)](#).\*

Data Access proposal questions	Guidance and resources
<i>Q1. What types of data and specific datasets will be generated from the project activities and/or collected from other sources?</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Identifying output and input data assets</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Data ecosystem mapping</a></li> </ul>
<i>Q2. Do you plan to create a data management plan? If not, why not?*</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Why create a data management plan</a></li> </ul>
<i>Q3. What data curation (e.g., organizing, describing, cleaning, enhancing, and preserving) activities are planned to enable reuse or secondary use of the datasets?*</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Data standards</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Data catalogs</a></li> </ul>
<i>Q4. Where and when will the datasets be deposited and preserved to enable reuse or secondary use and under what license?*</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Repository options for Ag</a></li> <li>• <a href="#">Data licensing</a></li> </ul>

Data Access proposal questions	Guidance and resources
<p><b>Q5.</b> Please describe any informed consents, approvals, and/or agreements that may be required to enable use or reuse of the datasets by the foundation, project collaborators, and/or third-party researchers. What steps do you plan to take to obtain such consents, approvals, and agreements?*</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="#">Data sharing agreements</a></li> </ul>

\*A Data Management and Access Plan ([DMAP](#)) is a living document that serves as a tool for grantees (in consultation with the Program Officer) to align on and document a planned approach for data management to enable data access objectives. The AgDev DMAP template is structured to address various potential scenarios and includes clear signposts, indicating that not every question will be relevant to every project. *Given that starting a DMAP will help the grantee answer questions 3, 4 and 5, Program Officers may want to share the template with grantees during proposal if appropriate.*

### 3) Inserting the Data Access Clause in the Agreement

To ensure grantees make data accessible, please work with your **legal and GCS business partners** to include BMGF Legal’s Data Management & Access Commitment Clause in the grant agreement:

*To the extent permitted by and subject to Your compliance with any applicable ethical, legal, or regulatory requirements or restrictions, for the purpose of achieving Global Access, you will make Funded Developments and Background Technology consisting of Data accessible as described in the Investment Document or a Data Management & Access Plan (if listed as a deliverable under this Agreement or otherwise reasonably requested by the Foundation). Your obligations under this section will survive the term of this Agreement. “Data” means data, datasets, databases, training data, associated metadata, and any additional relevant information<sup>[1]</sup>, as may be further defined or described in the Investment Document or Data Management & Access Plan. “Data Management & Access Plan” means a written document approved by the Foundation describing Your Data selection, collection, transfer, and access plans.*

<sup>[1]</sup> [Open Access Policy](#): “Underlying data encompasses all primary data, associated metadata, and any additional relevant data necessary to understand, assess, and replicate the reported study findings in totality.”

### 4) Establishing Key Data Milestones in the Grant Agreement

You should normally include the Data Management and Access Plan (DMAP)\* **and** Data Sharing Agreement execution as milestones in the Reporting & Payment Schedule. Consider including other data-related deliverables such as a data inventory or catalog.

**Example:** *A grant supporting an animal health monitoring project could include the following milestones: (1) Compile a data management and access plan and preliminary data inventory within the first six months, (2) Report on progress in implementing the data management and access plan and FAIR targets at each annual review and (3) Finalize and publish a data-sharing agreement with partners by Year 2.*

### 5) Considering Budget for Data-Related Objectives

Integrating data-sharing and management requirements into an investment requires resources and planning. Budgeting for data-related activities outlined in the DMAP (e.g., data publication fees, data steward, infrastructure development costs) ensures that grantees can meet compliance standards, uphold FAIR principles, and deliver valuable data outputs. Work with your grantee and Financial Planning and Analysis (FP&A) partners to plan for data-related activities in the budget.