



GAP Initiative Prospectus



2024 |

Motivating action and investment in sustainable agricultural productivity growth through collaboration, education, and advocacy.

ABOUT The GAP Initiative

The heart of the Global Agricultural Productivity (GAP) Initiative is the GAP Report.

Founded in 2010, the GAP Report uses publicly available data to monitor global trends in agricultural total factor productivity (TFP)—a measure of how efficiently agricultural resources and inputs are used to produce output.

The GAP Report draws on expertise from agricultural economists, the private sector, international agencies, civil society organizations, conservation and nutrition groups, universities, and research institutions to contextualize TFP growth trends and the importance of sustainable agricultural productivity growth across all scales of production.

The GAP Initiative is one of the core pillars of CALS Global in the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences (CALS) at Virginia Tech.

CALS Global assumed leadership of the GAP Report in 2019. Since then, it has expanded its network, advocacy, and collaboration to establish the GAP Initiative to accelerate action and investment in sustainable agricultural productivity growth.

Through the support of our partners and robust research and analysis, the GAP Initiative at Virginia Tech motivates action and investment in agricultural productivity growth to ensure every farmer has access to every proven productivity-enhancing tool.



ABOUT Our Vision

The GAP Initiative at Virginia Tech desires that every farmer has access to every proven, appropriate tool for creating agricultural productivity growth to sustainably meet our agricultural needs by 2050.

Our Mission

The GAP Initiative motivates action and investment in sustainable agricultural productivity growth through collaboration, education, and advocacy. Such growth must occur at all scales of production and in a way that creates returns to farmers, society, the economy, and the environment.

We achieve our mission through:

- » Creating data-driven thought leadership products and resources, especially the annual GAP Report.
- » Conducting robust research and analysis.
- » Promoting evidence-based productivity, distribution, socio-economic, and policy tools.
- » Convening and attending internationally recognized events.
- » Building a network of global champions and innovators.

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“The [GAP Report] sounds a note of caution of just how important science- and evidence-based policy is to enable the innovation ecosystem the world needs to achieve a sustainable, food-secure future.”

Rob Bertram, Ph.D.

Chief Scientist, Bureau for Resilience, Environment, and Food Security
U.S. Agency for International Development



COLLABORATE

Partners

The GAP Initiative is financially supported by Virginia Tech and private sector partners. It is technically supported by our financial partners and organizations from the non-profit and public sectors that provide important contextualization to productivity-enhancing solutions and innovation through their work.

GAP INITIATIVE SUPPORTING PARTNERS



GAP REPORT SUPPORTING PARTNER



TECHNICAL PARTNERS



COLLABORATE

New Partners

What would your partnership mean for the GAP Initiative?

We need different types of resources and investment to achieve the vision and the mission of the GAP Initiative and the collective goals of those working to advance sustainable agricultural productivity growth.

We have different partnership structures based on sector and are open to alternative partnership proposals.

Supporting Partners

Financial gifts secure a GAP Initiative Supporting Partnership through the Virginia Tech Foundation (501 c(3)). Additional financial resources will:

- Contribute to the development and expansion of a powerful data analytics platform developed in partnership with Google
- Increase dissemination of and advocacy for evidence-based productivity-enhancing tools
- Facilitate customized research and data analytics
- Enable case country analysis for tailored recommendations

Technical Partners

Secured through an informal agreement, technical partnership is offered for non-profit entities and provides the GAP Report as a communications tool, co-creation of thought leadership products, and collaboration on events to share evidence based on the work of our partner organizations.

Opportunities to collaborate on projects, research, and events are also developed into a workplan.

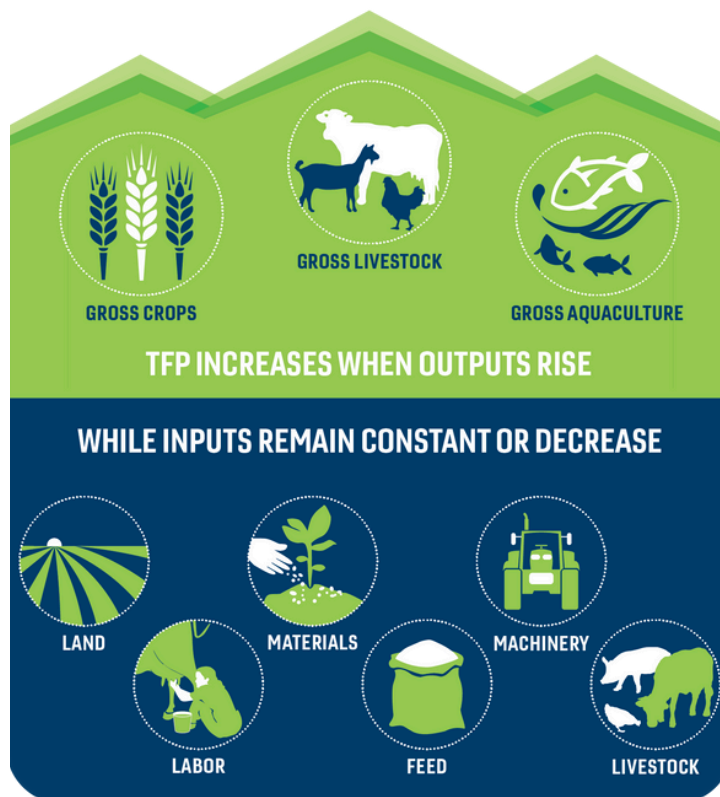
Research Partners

Established in 2025, research partners will work with the GAP Initiative to advance evidence-based policy and investment action. Agricultural science, technology, economics, and policy research collaborations are of high priority.

EDUCATE

The Importance of Agricultural Productivity Growth

Total factor productivity (TFP) is a measure of how efficiently agricultural output is produced from land, labor, capital, and material resources used. The Economic Research Service (ERS) at the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) releases an annual data set on international agricultural productivity (IAP). This data is the foundation of the GAP Report.



TFP GROWTH ACCOUNTING

The IAP data product provides annual indices of agricultural TFP for countries and world regions since 1961. ERS uses growth accounting to measure changes in TFP over time using data on agricultural outputs, inputs, and prices gathered from the Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Labor Organization. It is supplemented with data from national statistical agencies, organizations, and published works (USDA, 2022).

Sustainable agricultural productivity growth is one of the single most effective approaches to simultaneously meeting agricultural demand and environmental goals. Productive use of inputs and capital can increase farm income, reduce food prices, increase food availability, and improve natural resource conservation and protection. Investments in productivity growth can translate into environmental savings, improvements in food security and nutrition, and economic growth.

The GAP Report is the premier source for agricultural productivity data interpretation and policy and investment recommendations to inspire action and innovation.

ADVOCATE

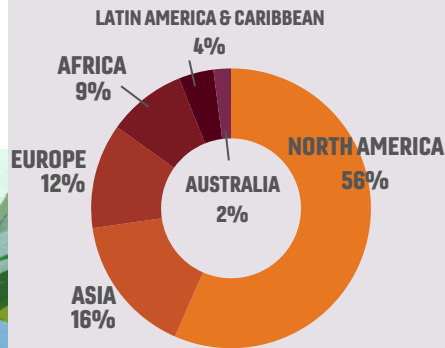
GAP Report Reach (YTD 2024)

GAP REPORT
REACH

82.2K

GLOBAL REACH

NEW USERS BY CONTINENT



READERS
OUTSIDE THE US

46%



LINKEDIN & X
FOLLOWERS

8K

GAP REPORT
READERS
2023-2024

20.9K

WEBSITE
VISITS
2024

36K

GAP REPORT
LAUNCH
REGISTRATIONS

656



ADVOCATE

2024-2026 GAP Initiative Priorities

Through collaboration, advocacy, and education, the GAP Initiative works with partners to increase every farmer's access to proven productivity-enhancing tools in a way that creates returns to farmers, society, the environment, and the economy. Our priorities for 2024 to 2026 are to:

1 Expand Data Analytics Prowess & Impact

- Increase the ease of access to TFP and related data required to make investment decisions and identify priority actions.
- Develop and expand the reach of data driven thought leadership products like the GAP Bulletin.

2 Develop & Advocate for Tailored Actions & Investment Priorities

- Pilot deep dive case studies in collaboration with countries to analyze data and develop priority actions and investments to sustainably grow TFP.
- Engage with policy and decision makers to implement recommendations.

3 Conduct Research to Fill Critical Evidence Gaps

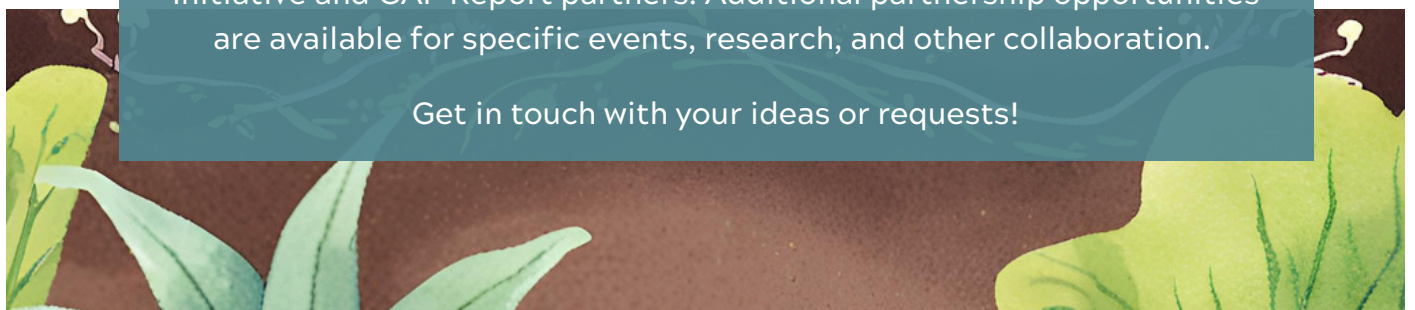
- Co-create and execute a research agenda to fill critical knowledge gaps on the actions, investments, and implications of sustainable TFP growth.
- Use embedded research translation techniques to disseminate and facilitate uptake of findings.

4 Build the Network of TFP Champions & Innovators

- Continue to grow and expand our network of champions, innovators, and solution implementers by convening and attending internationally recognized events that include target audiences and partners.

We collaboratively work on advancing our priorities through our GAP Initiative and GAP Report partners. Additional partnership opportunities are available for specific events, research, and other collaboration.

Get in touch with your ideas or requests!



ADVOCATE

2024-2026 GAP Initiative Research Agenda

The 2024 GAP Report revealed that global average annual TFP growth continues to lag. We must now aim for an average 2% annual growth in order to sustainably meet our agricultural needs by 2050. Continued TFP growth research is imperative for two reasons:

1. The reasons for the slowdown have not been fully explored. Initial research points to the slowing pace of public investment in research and development, consumer attitudes, regulatory burdens, and the effects of climate change and extreme weather events as contributing factors. However, more evidence is needed.
2. During the past five decades, global agriculture has benefited from the contribution of TFP growth to agricultural output growth. Efficiency gains have contributed to increasing producer incomes, reduced malnutrition, and environmental conservation. We need to identify how these contributions can continue and advance.

There are three leading questions that need immediate further research that the GAP Initiative will prioritize.

1

How does water use, land use, biodiversity, and ecosystem services relate to TFP growth in agriculture?

2

What are the key policy drivers of sustainable TFP growth in agriculture?

3

How does TFP growth enhance profitability, social outcomes, nutrition, economic development, and environmental health?



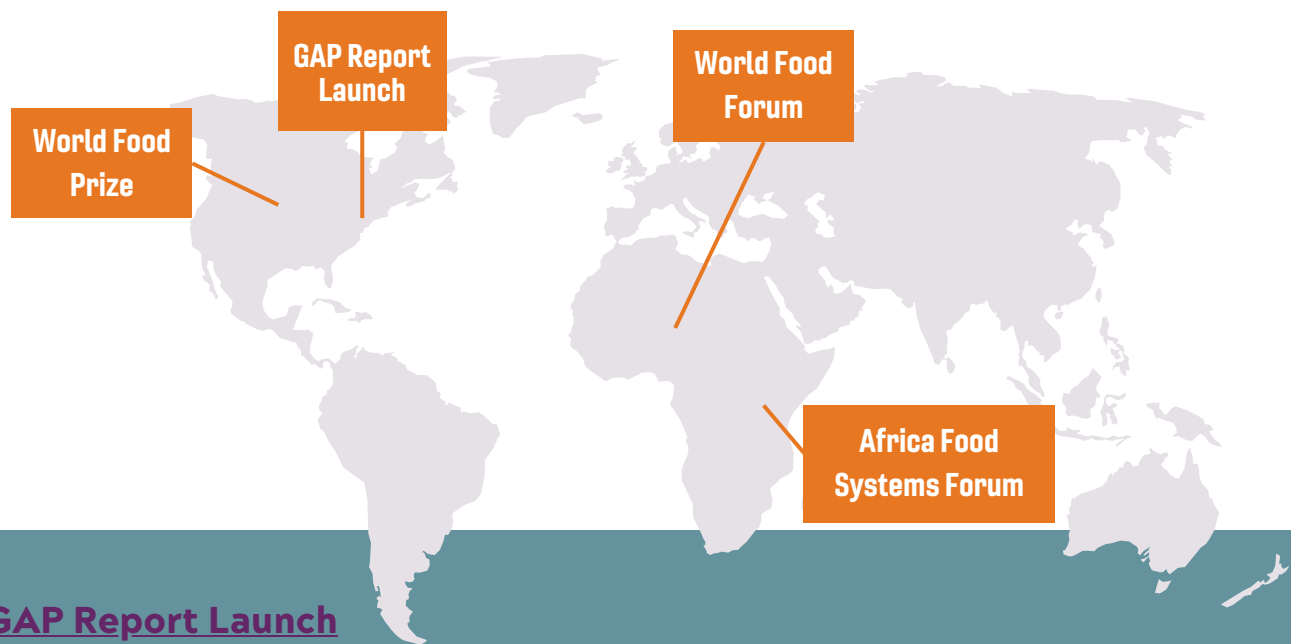
Our research approach harnesses both internal and external partnerships. We also co-develop research questions and integrate diverse expertise to maximize the relevance and impact of our findings.

Our approach enables us to effectively mobilize resources and global expertise to address crucial questions on TFP growth and its transformative impacts.

ADVOCATE

GAP Initiative Events

The GAP Initiative's hosts and engages in events and multilateral platforms that align with our mission to drive sustainable agricultural productivity growth, address food security, and support resilient food systems. We do so with our partners and critical stakeholders to our message. We also host online convenings to extend the reach of the critical GAP Report messages.



GAP Report Launch

Our signature event, the annual GAP Report launch, convenes agricultural professionals, farmers, investors, academics, and policymakers. The launch event fosters dialogue between these stakeholders on pressing agricultural challenges and opportunities. We also host an international event in our annual region of focus.

Africa Food Systems Forum

The GAP Initiative attends annually to meet with global leaders, investors, and international organizations to drive agricultural productivity growth in Africa.

World Food Forum

The GAP Initiative hosts side events, booths, and receptions and meets with country delegations and FAO staff to encourage youth action, scientific innovation, and multi-sectoral collaboration in agricultural productivity growth.

World Food Prize - Borlaug Dialogue

The original location of the GAP Report launch, the GAP Initiative supports its partner organizations in disseminating critical evidence on productivity growth and providing critical data to shape dialogues.



CONTACT

Get in touch to claim your place at the table.

We'd love to hear how you want to be involved with the GAP Initiative and how your organization can help to mobilize action and investment to accelerate agricultural productivity growth.

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globalagriculturalproductivity.org

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