

Secondary Data

What is secondary data?

Secondary data refers to existing information and data already collected.

Why collect secondary data?

Secondary data helps in planning and prioritizing needs and opportunities for a selected area.

Example data includes

- **Land use.** Primary land uses (crop, livestock, forestry, etc.)
- **Rainfall and temperature.** Graph monthly rainfall(mm) and monthly temperatures (Maximum and minimum) against the cropping pattern (e.g., showing planting, seedling, flowering, harvest)
- **Soils and topography.** Get soil or topographical maps of the area. Google maps and Google Earth offer excellent options for evaluating regions. Look at infrastructure, waterways, cities, market access, etc..
- **Socio-economic.** Collect any socio-economic survey data or reports.
- **Existing reports.** Don't reinvent the wheel. Collect any existing reports developed on major needs for the area.

Note: County reports are an excellent source of data.



Combine Secondary data with field observation to identify needs and opportunities.

Example of secondary data and use

TABLE AG-2 YOLO COUNTY IMPORTANT FARMLANDS

Land Category	Area (Acres)	Percent of Total County Lands
Prime Farmland	257,893	40%
Grazing Land	150,339	23%
Other Land	75,800	12%
Unique Farmland	50,197	8%
Farmland of Local Importance	65,173	8%
Urban and Built-Up Land	29,343	4%
Farmland of Statewide Importance	16,989	3%
Water	7,815	1%
Total	653,549 ^a	100%

^a Adjusted by +96 acres to match County GIS totals. Source: Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program, 2006. Read more: <https://www.oprah.com/oprahs-lifeclass/how-to-have-a-hard-conversation-in-seven-steps>

Secondary data helps you set appropriate priorities in terms of needs and opportunities. Complement secondary data analysis with field observations and interviews to make well informed decisions.