



**GLOBAL
FARM
METRIC**

**Global Farm
Metric Research
Tool
User Guide**

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What is the Global Farm Metric?



- The Global Farm Metric (GFM) is a whole-farm framework for measuring sustainability on all farming systems and landscapes. When adopted, it will align existing sustainability assessments to establish a common language that enables all stakeholders in food and farming to drive positive change and save farmers' time.
- See our latest [report](#) and [website](#) for information, including more detail on the categories and indicators of the GFM framework.

What is the Global Farm Metric Research Tool (GFM-RT)?



- The GFM-RT is an open-source self-assessment tool created to trial the GFM framework.
- It has been built to test whether this method of data capture and the outputs provided in the GFM-RT helps farmers and land managers to:
 - **Set and monitor progress** towards sustainability goals
 - **Make incremental improvements** to farming practices
 - **Learn about and reduce the negative impacts** the farm may be having
 - Improve the local **environment**
 - **Prepare for upcoming changes** to the UK agricultural policy
 - **Save time** inputting the same information into multiple assessments

What am I trialling?



- The GFM-RT is still in development. By completing the assessment you are helping to develop and improve the GFM framework so it is useable and useful to farmers.
- To do so, we ask that you:
 - Share your completed assessment with us (your data will be kept private - see the terms and conditions for more detail)
 - Leave comments and feedback via the online feedback function
 - Fill in our 5 minute survey (embedded within the GFM-RT)

Who is the GFM-RT for?



- The GFM-RT is for all farmers, land-managers and landowners who want to measure and improve their sustainability, be more resilient to climate change, be prepared for upcoming changes to UK agricultural support and help inform the development of the GFM.
- The tool can be used in the UK on farms of all sizes that produce food (including crops, livestock, vegetables, fruit) and non-consumable products (including biofuel, wool and wood fuel).

What are the assessment boundaries?



- The GFM-RT assessment collects information over a 12-month period which can be a calendar year, a financial year or from harvest to harvest. You can choose your preferred timeframe, but **it is important that information is collected over the same period each year.**
- The categories and questions are based on the GFM framework. Collecting information and filling in the assessment takes approximately 6-8 hours in total – see our data checklist for what information to collect and when. The time it takes to complete the assessment will be reduced after your first year.
- The information collected is restricted to the **farmgate** (i.e. products entering or leaving the farm) and the **farm business** (e.g. if land is rented out, the rental income is included in the assessment, but not the activity that takes place on the rented land, such as sheep grazing).

How is the assessment structured?



- The tool is made up of 11 categories which indicate whole-farm sustainability.
- Some categories, such as productivity and animal husbandry, ask you to input more detailed information. Other categories display the results of calculations from the information inputted in previous categories (such as greenhouse gas emissions for livestock and crops).
- Most of the information asked for in the tool is requested in other assessments and certification schemes. This is because, once adopted, the GFM is designed to save farmers time inputting the same information into multiple assessments.
- See our data checklist for what information to collect and when.

How do I access the GFM-RT?



To access the tool, follow this link: <https://mvarc.eu/tools/dev/gfm/>

How do I start?



1. Before you begin, it is important you read our **Technical Guide** carefully. **This includes information on how to save your progress.**
2. You can then start gathering the information you need to complete the tool using our data checklist.
3. Once you have familiarised yourself with the questions and the online tool you can begin filling in your information, starting with 'initial data'.
4. Move along the categories from left to right, selecting 'update score' once you have answered all category question marked with a *.
5. Once you have completed all relevant categories, you can view your final results, share them with your key contact or send them to info@globalfarmmetric.org and share your feedback.



Tool orientation



How do I save and continue my progress?



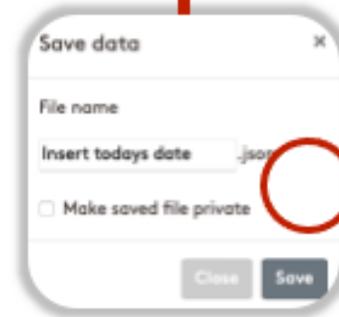
- If you get part way through the assessment but have not yet completed it, **you must download your assessment and save it on your computer.**
 - The GFM-RT stores your information as a .json file in your downloads folder. Nothing is saved or stored online.
 - Best practice is to download the file regularly as you work through the assessment, to ensure you don't lose any of the information you have inputted.
- To resume your session, upload the latest file you downloaded and continue to input your information.
- To save your progress again, repeat the download process.
 - Each time you click the download button a new .json file downloads to your computer labelled with a new number. You will end up having multiple copies in your download folder.
- Repeat this process as many times as you need.
- Please see next slide and read the **Technical Guide** for further instructions on how to download and save the assessment.

Save progress

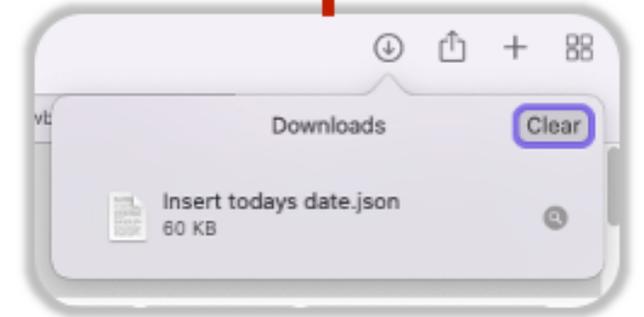
a) Select download. This will save your data as a .json file on your computer.



b) Label the file with the date so you can easily find your latest version. Select save.



c) Your data will now be saved on your computer in your downloads folder.

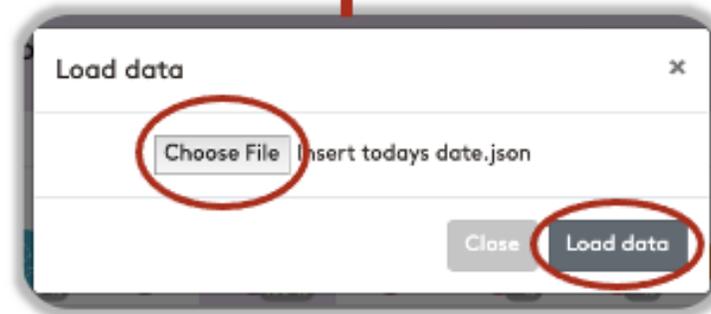


Continue

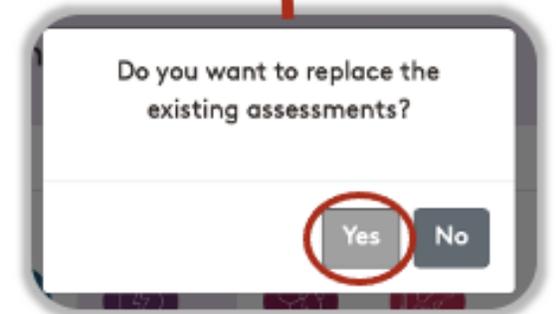
a) Select upload



b) Choose your last saved data file and select load data



c) Select 'no' if you have entered data online that you don't want to lose. Select 'yes' if no other assessment is in progress.



How is my assessment scored?



- For most questions, the answer given is marked 20, 40, 60, 80, or 100%. An N/A option is available for many questions; this is not included in the scores.
- Question scores are averaged to give a score for the sub-categories (also referred to as the sustainability 'indicators' in the GFM framework). The overall score for each category is then an average of the indicator scores.
- Scores are based on research, local benchmarking data, scientific evidence and expert knowledge.
- A general principle is that a score of 50% would reflect an average performance, less than 50% would be below average and above 50% would be above average.

What do I do once I've finished?

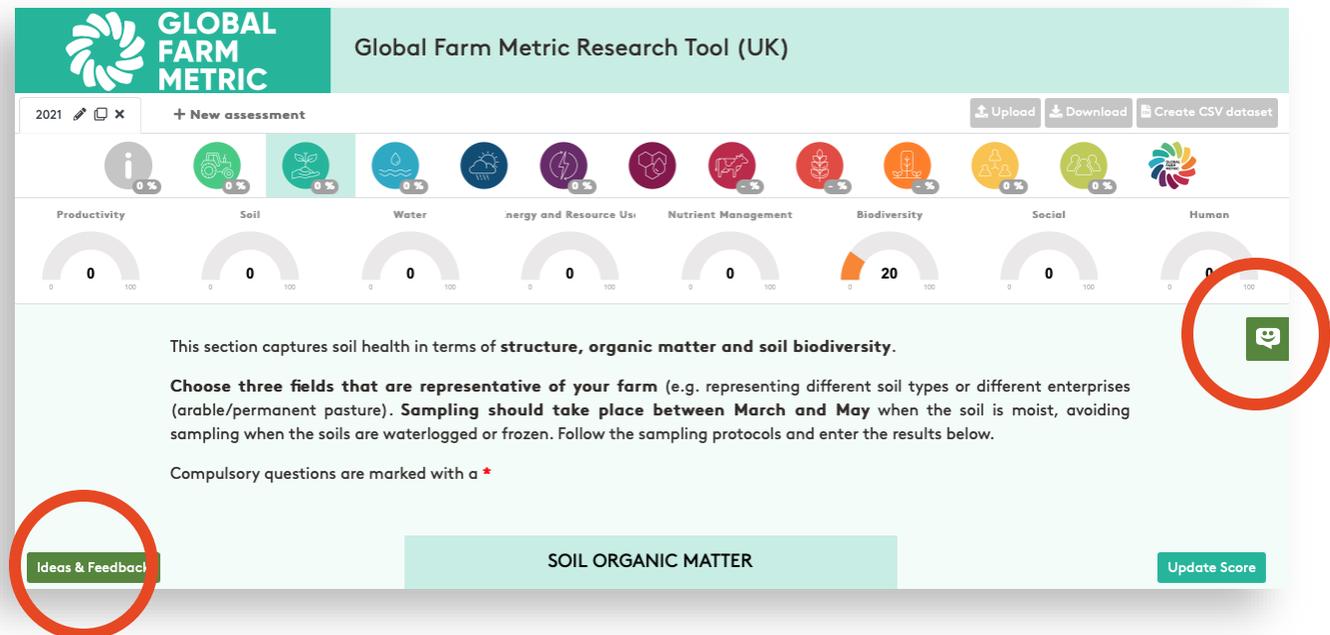


- Send your completed assessment by .json file to your key contact or to info@globalfarmmetric.org where it will be used in research to inform the development of the GFM. All data is kept completely private.
- You can also:
 - Begin to investigate the potential effects of changing or introducing new practices or management to the farm. To do this, input the proposed changes on the relevant questions and compare the results of the 'before' and 'after' scenarios. See the **Technical Guide** for more information.
 - Begin collecting information for next year's assessment to see the impacts your changes have made.
 - Head to the [Sustainable Food Trust](#) and [Global Farm Metric](#) website for resources, events and information on farming sustainably.

How do I share my feedback?



- The GFM-RT is key to the development of the Global Farm Metric. Your thoughts and comments are a vital part of this process and are greatly appreciated.
- Throughout the assessment, you can leave comments and flag any bugs using the in-tool feedback function (circled red below).
- When you have completed your assessment, please complete the survey embedded within the tool
- You can also email your key contact or info@globalfarmmetric.org to share further comments or book a 1-2-1 feedback session.



How is my data used?



- The tool is hosted online, but **your assessment is NOT saved online** - you must save your assessment to your local desktop. See our **Technical Guide** for more detail.
- To share your results, please return your downloaded .json data file to your key contact or to info@globalfarmmetric.org.
- Your data is then used as outlined in the terms and conditions shared with you at the start of the trial
- All information you share with us is used for **research purposes only** and all information is kept completely private. Your data will be anonymised to create sustainability benchmarks for the development of the GFM.

Where can I find help?



Still have questions? There are other options available to help you complete the GFM-RT tool.

- See our data checklist, Technical Guide and website for answers to FAQs, useful videos and resources.
- For more in-depth queries, you can email your key contact or info@globalfarmmetric.org