

Copyright Requirements for Publication

Before any IFPRI work can be published, authors MUST obtain permission to use all copyrighted, non-IFPRI materials within the work. IFPRI cannot allow copyright infringement in its publications.

To qualify as “copyrighted material,” it must appear in the IFPRI publication in substantially the same form as in its original outlet, whether print or online. Thus, a figure, table, or other graphic reproduced from another source is considered copyrighted material. This applies even if the IFPRI author has adapted or altered the graphic in some way: removing a column from a table, changing a heading, etc. A text excerpt of a page or more is also considered copyrighted material.

If, on the other hand, an author uses information from an outside source’s graphic (data from a table’s cells, for instance) but does not reproduce the actual graphic in some form or other, then this is not considered reproduction of copyrighted material. In the same way, a text excerpt/quotation of under a page is not considered a potential copyright violation. In these cases, all that is required is a standard academic citation of the original source.

In cases where copyrighted material is being reproduced, the author must seek permission from the publisher of the original source. The author should fill out the Copyright Request Form and submit it to the publisher.

If the publisher agrees to IFPRI’s terms, then production can proceed with the copyrighted material included, along with a citation and any credit lines the publisher might request. If the publisher declines to grant permission, then the copyrighted material must be removed from the IFPRI publication.

The publisher might also offer a qualified permission, in which case the correct response depends upon the permission’s precise terms:

- If the publisher grants permission, but with the sole condition that the graphic/text not be adapted but instead be reproduced in its original form, then it is up to the authors to decide whether to use the original material or to drop it from the publication.
- If the publisher grants permission but requires a fee, then it is up to the authors to decide whether to pay for the graphic/text or to drop it from the publication. The authors are responsible for paying all permission fees.
- If the publisher grants permission to reproduce the graphic/text in the print version of the publication but not the online version, or vice versa, then the graphic/text must be removed from the IFPRI publication.
- If the publisher places a time limit on the permission—we have permission to include it in our publication for the next five years, say, but not after that—then the graphic/text should be removed from the IFPRI publication.