



Global Strategy
IMPROVING AG-STATISTICS



6th Meeting of the Global Steering Committee (GSC)

28 June 2013, 17:30 – 18:30 (Rome time)

AGENDA ITEM 2.a *(for information)*

Overall progress of the implementation of the Global Strategy










January – June 2013



Note

Since the implementation activities in the regions are about to start, this specific report on progress made in the implementation of the Global Strategy between January and June 2013 is structured according to the reporting structure and outputs of the Global Office. Activities related to the preparation of activities in the regions are reported under the Coordination item.




In order to facilitate the reading of the document and to be able to measure immediately in broad terms the degree of achievement and delivery, a system of traffic lights is proposed. A black circle indicates:

-    Activities which have not yet started or are behind of expectations in terms of delivery
-    Activities which have started but still require efforts for reaching the objectives
-    Significant progress made



Programme of Activities 2013

Output 1 - Effective governing bodies set up and functioning at global level

<p>1.1</p>	<p>Establishment of the Global Office </p> <p>Achievements The vacancies for the Research Officer (P2) and Programme Officer (P2) have been issued and the appointment process is expected to be completed soon. In the interim period, FAO Statistics Division has supported the work with its Regular Programme staff, and temporary staff has been recruited to support the Global Office activities.</p> <p>Next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vacancy for the Statistician for Technical Assistance and Training (P4) will be released in July • Position for Monitoring and Evaluation will be filled by consultants. The Global Office will present an M&E action plan to the next GSC meeting in October.
<p>1.2</p>	<p>Coordination </p> <p>Achievements: Regional action plans (2 completed, 2 to be finalised) </p> <p>The development of the regional action plans has well progressed during the first semester of 2013. The regional action plan for Asia and the Pacific has been approved whereas the regional action plans for CIS and Latin America and the Caribbean are in their latest steps for approval. The plan for Near East is in preparation. More specifically, the Global Office has supported each region as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In Africa, UNECA has been the first participating partner receiving funds from the Global Trust Fund. The major operational achievements are: (i) the development of a standard Memorandum of Understanding for all participating partners (PPs); (ii) the consolidation of the Global Trust Fund financial set up, with a specific funding and accounting structure to facilitate funds management, both on receiving and disbursing. The Global Office organized a mission in Tunis in May for supporting the preparation of the African workplan for 2013, which has been endorsed by the RSC in May and is in the process of being endorsed by the GEB. • In Asia and the Pacific, the Regional Action plan was endorsed at the 5th GSC meeting. The annual workplan for 2013 was prepared and endorsed during the 1st meeting of the Regional Steering Committee (9-10th April 2013) then during the 4th GEB. The FAO regional office will be responsible for the technical assistance component whereas ESCAP/SIAP will be performing the training activities. As ESCAP is an external participating partner, the transfer of funds will be only placed after the signature of the MoU. The MoU has been signed by ESCAP in June and is in the process of FAO countersignature. • In Latin America and the Caribbean, the first draft for the Regional Action Plan was presented at the Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA) in April 2013 for considerations and comments before it was submitted to the Regional Steering

Committee organized in the margin of the IICA-FAO working group in Trinidad (June 2013). The regional plan was positively welcomed by the Committee members and the requested changes will be inserted into the final draft to be endorsed during the next RSC meeting planned in the margins of ICAS VI in October 2013 in Brazil. Activities are supported by seed money allocated for developing the plans and conducting the country assessments

- In the **Near East** region, the UNESCWA Statistical Committee (Cairo, February 2013) commissioned the FAO Regional office and UNESCWA to develop a Regional Action Plan. The Global trust fund has provided some seed money, which is being used at the moment by the region for carrying out the country assessments and drafting the Regional Action Plan.
- For the **CIS region**, a first draft for the Regional Action Plan has been prepared with strong support from the Global Office. This plan will be discussed during the first validation workshop to be held in Budapest on the 4-5th of July 2013, and for final validation in October 2013.

Coordination with other FAO projects or other initiatives ● ● ●

The Global Office has been working in close collaboration with the other projects carried out by FAO and other partners; in particular with the **AMIS** project whose research activities are directly linked to the Global Strategy. The Global Office has been involved in other activities of coordination over the first semester with several other initiatives; the **M&E harmonization group of food security partners** including the development of **CARDS** (Core Agricultural and Rural Data Survey), the **LSMS-ISA** project of the World Bank, the **Livestock project** and the Japanese Rice project (**CARD**). The main aim is to ensure that initiatives are not overlapping and all contribute to the overall objectives and outcomes of the Global Strategy. The Global Office was also heavily involved, in collaboration with African partners, in discussions aiming at ensuring a better linkage between the Global Strategy and the M&E framework of the **CAADP** (Comprehensive Agricultural African Development Programme).

Resource mobilization ● ● ●



Within the current resource partner portfolio, the agreement formalizing the Italian contribution was signed in March 2013. During the first semester resource mobilization efforts have been step up by filling the existing gap and identifying other potential donors. A proposal for an amount of 10 million dollars is being currently negotiated with the European Commission to cover the funding gap in Africa. For Latin America and the Caribbean contacts have been already made with other potential donors. The resource mobilization efforts will commence in CIS and Near East once the Regional Action plans are ready.

Procedures ● ● ●


The **manual of procedures** for disbursing funds and the standard narrative and financial reporting **templates** have been developed and approved to ensure the robust monitoring of the programme against the Global Logical Framework and global outputs. These templates have been approved during the 4th GEB meeting on 23rd April 2013. The first **narrative and financial reports** (2012 activities) for the Global Strategy have been submitted by the Fund administrator.

Next steps


- **Regional action plans** finalized for Latin America (October 2013), CIS (October 2013) and Near East (by the end of 2013)
- **First stage Country assessments** finalized for Africa (Summer 2013), Near East and Latin America by the end of the year

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Workplans 2013 to be implemented in Africa and Asia and the Pacific (in particular the in-depth country assessments and the preparation of sectoral plans in the 12 targeted countries in Africa and in the 3 targeted countries in Asia). In Africa full implementation is depending on the pending issue of the signature of an MoU with AfDB (UNECA has already received 2012 funds for implementing the training activities) • Resource mobilization strategy to be put in place (proposal to the next GSC in October) • Advocacy missions for raising funds to be planned and organized • Organizing the calendar of annual reporting between regions and global level in order to ensure timely submission of annual reports • Establishing the database for sharing information on research topics • Preparation of ICAS VI in October (Rio de Janeiro – Brasil) <p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Some of the regions are not falling under donor priorities and therefore the mobilization of funding is more complex. Partners and GSC members strongly encouraged to advocate for the GS and help the Global Office in mobilizing additional funding.</i> • <i>Integrated budget will have to be updated for taking into account the latest changes approved by the GSC, the new developments and lessons learned from implementation; M&E positions shared by regions, absence of Communication-Advocacy budget lines on dissemination to be reviewed, more fungibility and flexibility.</i> • <i>African regional action plan should be updated and aligned with the Global Action Plan</i> • <i>Possible delays for delivering in time in Africa (Regional Office to be put in place).</i>
1.3	<p>Organization of technical meetings </p> <p>Achievements</p> <p>During 2013, the Terms of Reference (ToRs), selection criteria and members of the Scientific Advisory Committee have been approved by the Global Steering Committee (GSC). The Global Office will organize the first meeting of the Scientific Advisory Committee from 18-19 of July (<i>see specific report on the implementation of the Research plan</i>).</p>
1.4	<p>Governance meetings (GEB, GSC) </p> <p>Achievements</p> <p>A total of five Global Steering Committee (GSC) meetings and four Global Executive Board (GEB) meetings have been organized to date. Throughout 2013, the following meetings have been organized:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The 5th GSC meeting took place on the 26th of February 2013 as a back to back meeting to the 44th session of the UNSC. During the meeting, the following decisions were approved: (i) allocation of the Italian Cooperation's funds; (ii) Global Office annual workplan for 2013; (iii) the ToRs and membership of the Scientific Advisory Committee. • The 6th GSC is planned on the 28th of June via videoconference. The main objective is to measure progress of the implementation of the Global Strategy with focus on the research plan. • The 4th GEB meeting was organized on the 23rd of April 2013 where the workplans for Asia and the Pacific, CIS, Near East and Latin America and the Caribbean were endorsed. • Two electronic consultations have also been organized for endorsing the Regional action Plan for Asia and the Pacific by the GSC in February and the African workplan 2013 in Africa by the GEB (on-going)

	<p>Next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is proposed to organize the 7th GSC meeting in the margins of the ICAS 6 conference in Brazil in October 2013 where a specific plenary session on the Global Strategy is planned.
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1.5	<p>Advocacy, Communication </p>
	<p>Achievements</p> <p>The Global action plan has been translated into Spanish and French. It is also being translated into Russian. A communication strategy is being developed and members of the GSC will be asked to approve it by electronic consultation in the next weeks. It includes a specific communication and advocacy plan (including support to the regions) which will propose the preparation of promotional materials such as brochures and posters for various target audiences, the creation of a general portal for the Global strategy and other ways of communication which may include web-based and social media presence, electronic newsletters and core thematic information products.</p>
	<p>Next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Approval of the communication/advocacy plan by September 2013 Launching the communication activities by end 2013 <p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>The budget for communication and advocacy has been underestimated and there is no specific budget line in the integrated budget.</i>



Output 2 - Guidelines and handbooks for mainstreaming agriculture into NSDS

2.1	<p>Sectoral Strategic Plans (SSPARS) </p>
	<p>Achievements</p> <p>A senior consultant specialized in strategic planning for statistics with a long experience and practice in Africa has been recruited to draft the guidelines in close consultation with the Global Office. Work has started in May and a first draft will be completed at the end of July. Since the budget planned under this output was overestimated, the financing of the development of the training material will be taken under this heading.</p>
	<p>Next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A peer review process will be organized with qualified experts on agricultural sector statistics plans. Final publication including translations will be ready by end of 2013; the work will be carried out in parallel with the preparation of training material (see output 4). A first roll-out of the guidelines is to be planned in collaboration with African partners by the end of the year.

Output 3 - Research for new cost effective methods

See specific report on the implementation of the Research plan

Output 4 - Standard guidelines and training material

<p>4.1</p>	<p>Development of standard guidelines </p> <p>Achievements On the best practices on nomadic livestock, the work is progressing well and the publication will be ready by the end of 2013. With regards to better dissemination of agricultural micro-data it has been agreed that the work will be carried out in close collaboration with the IHSN network. ToRs have been prepared and discussions are on-going for identifying a consultant. On agricultural classifications, a project document has been prepared and it was agreed that guidelines will be co-published with UNSD.</p> <p>Next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guidelines on best practices on nomadic livestock finalized by end of 2013. • Drafting of guidelines on agricultural classifications starting in September 2013, expected to be finished by April 2014. • Drafting of guidelines on better dissemination of agricultural micro-data should also start in September 2013, a draft will be made available by the end of 2013. • Drafting of guidelines on integrated Survey framework should also start during the last quarter of 2013. • Guidelines on improving the use of GPS-GIS-RS for master sampling frames should also start in last quarter of 2013. <p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>As a general issue, costs for developing guidelines have in some cases been underestimated in the integrated budget</i> • <i>Urgent need to recruit statistician on technical assistance and training for managing and monitoring these activities and contributing to their development</i>
<p>4.2</p>	<p>Development of training material </p> <p>Achievements Regarding linking Agricultural Census and Population Census, an agreement has been found with the FAO specialized unit for developing e-learning modules. The material, based on the existing guidelines and the results of a series of workshops in 2012 and 2013 (the last one organized in the margins of the IICA-FAO working group in Trinidad in June for Caribbean countries) should be made available by the end of the year. On greenhouse gas emissions, the identification of the consultant is about to be completed.</p> <p>Next steps</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training material on linking Agricultural Census and Population Census finalized by end of 2013 • Consultant to start on training material on greenhouse gas emissions; a draft should be made available in November 2013 and tested during the AFCAS workshop in December 2013. • Training material on SSPARS will be made available by the end of 2013. <p>Issues</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Training material on agricultural classifications will have to be postponed to 2014 since it is linked with the availability of the guidelines.</i>