



Global Strategy
IMPROVING AG-STATISTICS



Global Strategy Summary Report

Consolidated Narrative Report 2012



1) Effective governing bodies set up and functioning

Throughout 2011 and 2012, FAO has supported the preparations for the foundations on which the program will be consolidated. A remarkable effort has gone into the development and establishment of the Global Trust Fund and the consolidation of the Fund Administrator role. A specific financial mechanism has been prepared in order to transfer the funds to the Participating. A clear reporting structure which covers all the administrative, financial and legal framework has been created in order to ensure the robust monitoring and reporting of the performance of the programme. Several units in FAO and Partner Agencies were involved in this lengthy process which was a pre-condition for technical work.

These achievements have been presented and discussed with all the relevant stakeholders during the Governance meetings. The main achievements of these meetings are described in detail under section 1.3 below.

1.1 Establishment of the Global Office

At Global level, the focus of implementation in 2012 was establishing the Global Office, developing and initiating the country assessments and identifying the key research priorities for the Global Strategy. The key posts of Global Office Coordinator and Research Coordinator have been filled. In the interim period, FAO Statistics Division has supported the work with its Regular Programme staff and temporary support staff.

1.2 Global Office support to the regional Action Plans

During 2012, the Global Office has supported the preparation of the regional action plans, specifically:

Asia and the Pacific: the Steering Group on Agricultural Statistics (SGAS) was established in August 2011, with the purpose to develop the regional action plan for Asia and the Pacific. The SGAS has formally met in November 2011 and July 2012. In addition, there was a meeting of the Drafting Committee in May 2012. All these meetings have led to the finalization of the Regional Action plan for Asia and the Pacific that has been approved during the 5th GSC session in February 2013. The SGAS will be replaced by the regional steering committee in Asia (1st meeting took place on 9-10th April 2013).

The Global Office has participated to all SGAS meetings and has supported the preparations of the inception phase project operated by FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific.

CIS: the Global Office has attended to the two meetings of the Council of Heads of Statistical Services of the CIS member countries, which were held in Russia. The Global Office has supported the preparation of the inception phase project operated by FAO Regional Office for Europe and Central Asia .

Africa: The Global Office participated in the second Regional Steering Committee for Africa on 26th November 2012 in Abidjan. It has also supported the preparation of the workplan for 2013 for Africa Region.

During 2012, the standard MoU to be signed with each participating partner has been prepared and shared with the two Participating Partners in the region: AfDB and UNECA. In addition, the Global Office has provided extensive support to UNECA's request to UN Controller to operate at a 5% Project Support Cost rate.

Near East: FAO Regional Office for the Near East, supported by the FAO Global Office and ESCWA, organized an informal experts meeting to initiate the discussions on the Regional Action Plan and the upcoming ESCWA Committee on Statistics is expected to provide a mandate for preparing the plan. The Global Office has also supported the preparations of the inception phase project operated by FAO Regional Office for the Near East.

Latin America and the Caribbean: The Regional Action Plan is at the draft stage. The first draft has been presented at the Statistical Conference of the Americas (SCA) in April 2013 for considerations and comments before it is submitted to the Regional Steering Committee for its regional approval in June 2013.

In September 2012, the Working Group for Agricultural Statistics of the SCA-ECLAC (WGAS) met in Mexico to discuss the Global Strategy implementation in Latin America and the Caribbean. In that meeting, it was decided that the WGAS will constitute the Regional Steering Committee with FAO holding the secretariat, it was also decided that international organizations like ECLAC, CARICOM, IDB and others will be invited to be part of this Committee. During the meeting, the Standard Country Assessment Questionnaire and instructions were discussed and improved.

1.3 Implementation of the governance set up

1.3.1 Global Governance meetings

The first meeting of the Global Steering Committee (GSC) was held on the 15 December 2011 to agree on the membership of the GSC, its rule of decision and how to make the Governance Framework of the Global Strategy function effectively.

A total of three GSC meetings were organized in 2012. The second GSC meeting was on 1st March 2012 (face to face in New York during the 42nd UNSC Session). During this meeting, the membership of the Governance of the programme was endorsed and its terms of reference was discussed.

At the third GSC meeting held on 7th June 2012, the integrated budget of the Action Plan, the annual allocation of funds and the ToRs for the programme governance were endorsed.

At the 4th meeting of the GSC on the 3rd December 2012, the report of the GEB was endorsed and the Regional Action Plan for Asia and Pacific was conditionally endorsed. Funds expected for 2013 were also allocated to Global and Regional activities. The allocation of funds was mainly in Africa and Asia and the Pacific. Additional discussion took place on the allocation of additional seed money to the non funded regions. The GSC provided recommendations on the composition of a Scientific Advisory Committee that will support the Global Office. The Global Executive Board (GEB) is the executive committee of the GSC. Between meetings of the GSC, it represents the membership of the GSC and facilitates coordination among all GSC members. A total of three Global Executive Board meetings were organized in 2012. During the first GEB meeting (17th June 2012), Ms Samia Zekaria was nominated as the chair of the GEB for a two years period. The draft mechanism procedure for disbursing the funds was also approved. The second meeting of the GEB was organized on 19th July 2012, shortly after the first one. During the meeting, the GEB the allocation of funds received (the first instalment of DfID funds) was approved and the following workplans and budgets were approved: Asia and the Pacific, the Near East, CIS, Latin America and the Caribbean and the Global Office subject to corrections. The meeting was followed by the disbursement instructions from the Fund Administrator and by the electronic endorsement of the simplified global logframe which will serve as the basis for a more robust monitoring and evaluation framework.

The third meeting of the GEB was held on 2nd December 2012 as a back-to back meeting within the framework of the High Level Stakeholders meeting on the Global Strategy. The GEB endorsed the content of the manual of procedures for disbursement of funds to Participating Partners (Global and Regional implementing agencies) and conditionally endorsed the related reporting templates, subject to the submission of an amended version. During this meeting, the principles and methods for harmonizing the funding cycles of the contributions received from resource partners and assigning it to corresponding calendar years was also endorsed. Finally, the GEB reviewed the priorities for workplan for 2013 for all Participating Partners.

Based on the strategic allocation of funds approved by the Global Steering Committee, the Global Executive Board requested to the Fund Administrator to transfer a total of 1,799,556 USD in 2012 as follows: FAO Global Office USD 1,236,416; FAO Regional Offices USD 563,140 (Asia and the Pacific USD 375,140, Latin America and the Caribbean USD 90,000, Near East USD 50,000, Europe and Central Asia USD 48,000). There were no MoU signed in 2012 since these transfers were internal to FAO.

1.3.2 Other meetings

The Global Action Plan was unanimously endorsed during the *Meeting of Resource Partners* organized by FAO Statistics Division in October 2011. During the meeting, the resource partners expressed support for the Global Strategy and its Implementation Plan.

The Global Office organized High Level Stakeholders Meeting on the Global Strategy - From Plan to Action from the 3rd to the 5th of December of 2012 in order to officially launch the Implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics. The purpose of the meeting was to update the stakeholders with the status of the activities carried out so far under the umbrella of the Global Strategy.

The meeting was also an opportunity to organize Global Governing Bodies meetings face to face and to have a separate meeting in order to present the priority areas for implementation the research plan.

As side events, the following four high level expert meetings were organized areas:

- 1) Assessing Country Capacity to Produce Agricultural and Rural Statistics;
- 2) Developing Sector Strategic Plans for Agricultural and Rural Statistics and Integration into the National Strategies for Development of Statistics (NSDS);
- 3) Master Sampling Frames (MSF) for Agricultural and Rural Statistics;
- 4) New Metrics to Measure and Monitor Performance in Agriculture and Food Security.

The minutes of the meeting are available, from midJanuary, on the following web-link <http://www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-events/global-strategy-2012/en/>

2. Coordinating bodies of the national statistical system, legal frameworks and strategic plans established.

The work on Sectoral Plan for Agricultural Statistics and mainstreaming agriculture into National Strategy for Development of Statistics has been initiated in collaboration with PARIS21 for preparation of guidelines. A first draft concept document and an outline for aligning the sectoral plan for agricultural statistics with the new approach and guidelines for NSDS has been prepared and were discussed in detail at the Expert meeting organized as part of the High Level Stakeholders Meeting on the Global Strategy: From Plan to Action in December.2013. Good practices and relevant technical documents are already available for use by countries. References and documents showing experience from countries are available from mid January on the following link <http://www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-events/global-strategy-2012/en/>

3. New cost effective methods for data collection, analysis and dissemination developed.

The focus of the activities in 2012 has been on establishing the Global Office and developing the research agenda of the Global Strategy. Hence the research coordinator was not formally recruited until January 2013, the progress of the research activities is very limited.

Guidelines on linking Population census with Agricultural census: These guidelines are also key to integration of agriculture into national statistical system and for cost-effective census and survey programme at country level. They were prepared by FAO and UNFPA and published in 2012. The guidelines are being widely disseminated and many countries are using them as reference document when planning their Population and Agricultural censuses.

Handbook on the use of handheld GPS for crop area measurement: This technical handbook will assist many countries where costly crop area measurements are part of agricultural surveys by substantially reducing the cost of such surveys (the time for measurement can be reduced by 60%). The draft handbook has been prepared by FAO working with JRC, WFP and CIRAD.

Cost of production: This topic has also been identified among the priorities for developing standard methodology under the Global Strategy. Work has been started and country practices have been compiled for the preparation of guidelines. The second expert group meeting took place in October 2012 in Dalat, Vietnam back to back with the 24th Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics, with 27 participants from 22 countries from various regions and organizations. Agreement was reached on the set of practices on the various technical issues related to measuring cost of production. It was agreed that the handbook on cost of production would be produced collaboratively, along with training material, and in addition a software package would be developed to collect, manage and analyze cost of production statistics to support countries in implementing the new methods.

4. Increased capacity of agricultural statistics staff in regional training centers and target countries

The following activities have been conducted in line with the technical assistance and training activities planned by the Global Strategy:

Integrated censuses: following the development of the Guidelines for Linking Population and Housing with Agricultural Censuses, three regional workshops were held. One in the Pacific from 28th May to 1st June, in Noumea, New Caledonia. The second one took place in Amman, Jordan from 24th to 28th June and the third one took place in Abidjan from the 9 to the 13 of July. Support was expressed for the method and discussions were held on the gains from integration, the particular conditions under which it is appropriate and the best methods for integration under particular country conditions.

Development of Sectoral Plan for Agricultural Statistics in Tanzania: In order to pilot test the implementation of the Global Strategy, a joint FAO/USDA mission went to Tanzania in order to assess the situation of the agricultural statistics, the needs of users, on-going assistance being provided and identify priority areas where further technical assistance and capacity building are needed. The mission consulted with all key stakeholders, including Senior and Technical Staff from the Government and Key Development Partners. The mission worked with national staff to prepare a proposal that was agreed with all partners and is being used as reference to assistance in agricultural statistics. One of the key activities identified is the development of the sector strategic plan for agricultural and rural statistics in an inclusive process and with leadership of a national team, supported by a wide range of partners.

CountrySTAT: the CountrySTAT dissemination system has included a section for dissemination of the Global Strategy Minimum Set of Core Data, divided into four groups (Economic, Social, Environmental and Geographic Location) with 41 key variables. The twenty one countries under the project have included this data.

5. Related activities and synergies of Global Strategy with other programmes

5.1 Country assessments

The country assessments are the starting point of implementation of the Global Strategy. They will be carried out in two stages: the first stage will be done using the global standard questionnaire that will assess country's statistical capacity. This information will be used for the second stage; designing the in-depth country assessment, which will be the basis for preparation of a country proposal for technical assistance and training.

The standard questionnaire for country assessment has been developed. It was piloted in the Asia region in 59 countries. These questionnaires were received, processed and analyzed during the first half of 2012 although there were some quality problems with responses. It was used to test the capacity development indicators which were used in preparing the Asia-Pacific Action Plan. A Preliminary Country Assessment Report was produced as a result and presented to regional bodies on agricultural statistics. The regional steering committee in Asia and the Pacific has selected Bhutan, Indonesia and Sri Lanka as pilot countries to carry out the in deep country assessment during 2013.

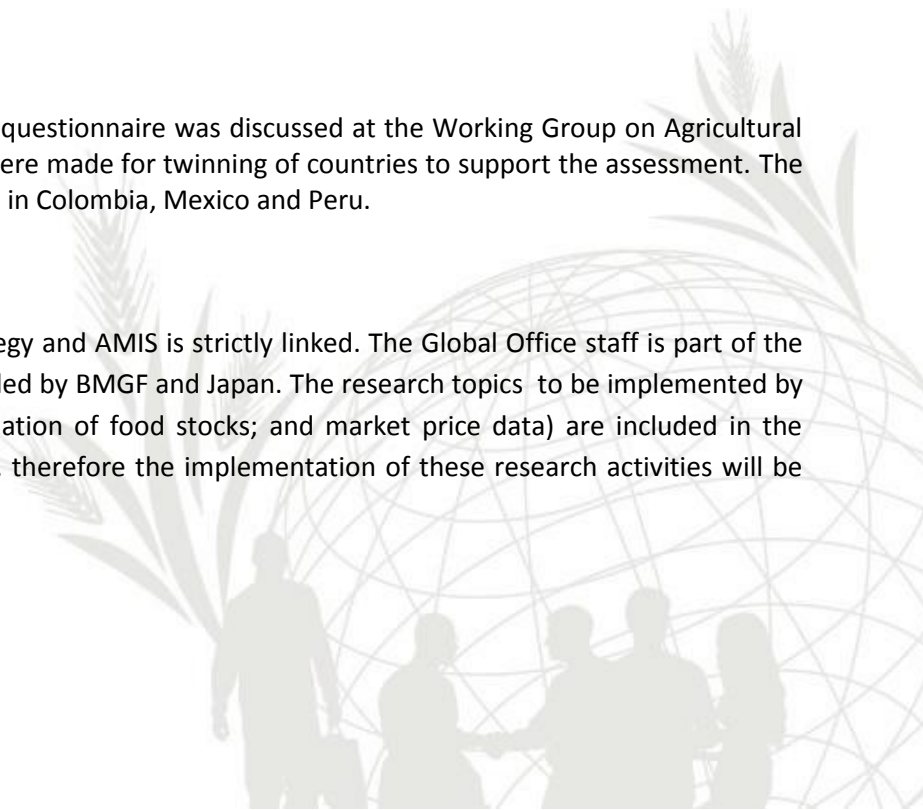
The implementation of the standard questionnaire has also started in Africa region, lead by African Development Bank (AfDB), as regional participating partner. Two trainings were held by African Development Bank, in collaboration with FAO, in Kigali, Rwanda 19th-21st June; and in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia 27th-29th August. A software has been developed to complete the questionnaire online; and focal points, who will manage the completion of the questionnaire the coordination, including coordination among agencies, were selected in each country. The in-depth country assessment activities in the 7 pilot African countries (Ethiopia, Tanzania, Uganda, Ghana, Burkina Faso, Mali, Nigeria) is on-going. The implementation is lead by FAO in collaboration with AfDB. This activities are managed by a separate project funded by BMGF.

In Latin America and the Caribbean the questionnaire was discussed at the Working Group on Agricultural and Rural Statistics and arrangements were made for twinning of countries to support the assessment. The pilot country assessment was conducted in Colombia, Mexico and Peru.

5.2 AMIS

The implementation of the Global Strategy and AMIS is strictly linked. The Global Office staff is part of the task force of the two AMIS projects funded by BMGF and Japan. The research topics to be implemented by AMIS (crop production forecasts; estimation of food stocks; and market price data) are included in the research agenda of the Global Strategy, therefore the implementation of these research activities will be coordinated with the Global Office.

6. Resources Mobilized



Following intensive advocacy efforts, two important grant agreements covering the period 2012-2016 have been signed. The first agreement was signed in March 2012 with the UK Department for International Development (DFID) for a total amount of 16 million pounds. The second agreement was signed with Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation in November 2012 for an amount exceeding the 15 million USD. The contribution from the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs was committed in 2012.

The total value of resource mobilized up to date amount to a total of about USD 41 million. This 50% of the total budget approved over a period of 5 years. This leaves a funding gap of about USD 42 million compared to the approved budget of the Action Plan, and consultations are underway with a number of important multilateral and bilateral donors to meet the funding requirements. Significant in kind and financial resources have also been provided by the FAO, the World Bank and the African Development Bank. The Asian Development Bank has funded research activities of the Asia-Pacific Action Plan. In addition, Japan provided in kind contribution by seconding an expert to support the Regional Office for Asia.





Report towards the achievements against the LOGICAL FRAMEWORK as of April 2013

Global Output	Global Indicator	Global Baseline	Global Target	Achievement to date
1. Effective governing bodies set up and functioning at Global and Regional Levels	GO1.1 Regional Action Plans developed	1 (Africa)	5 (1 Action Plan per region)	2 Regional Action Plans have been endorsed (Africa and Asia and the Pacific) 2 Draft Regional Action Plans have been finalized (LAC and CIS)
	GO1.2 Reports submission	0	5 submitted on time (according to procedures specified in the Manual of Procedures)	1 Consolidated Narrative Report 1 Financial report being prepared albeit with some delay.
2. Coordinating bodies of the national statistical system, legal frameworks and strategic plans established (by the countries), to enable the integration of agriculture into the national statistical system	GO2.1 Integration of agricultural and rural statistics into NSDSs or National Statistical Strategies	Africa: xx Asia and Pacific: LAC: CIS: Near East:	xx countries (70% of target countries)	0
	GO2.2 National budget for agricultural statistics	National budget for agricultural statistics in each target countries	Increase in national budget for agricultural statistics covers the cost of a minimum core data set in each target country	0
3. New cost effective methods for data collection, analysis and dissemination developed	GO3.1 Number of reports, produced on funded research topics	0	24 of the funded research topics (80%) to be featured in 1 or more guidelines or technical reports	0
	GO3.2 Number of publications on funded research topics	0	24 of the funded research topics (80%) to be featured in 1 or more papers in internationally recognized scientific journals or meetings	0
4. Increased capacity of agricultural statistics staff in regional training centers and target countries	GO4.1 Regional training centers have permanent qualified trainers/staff	1-2 for each centre	4 for each centre	0
	GO4.2 Countries having statistical staff with core statistical skills	xx target countries with specified number of staff	xx target countries with specified number of staff ¹ (at least 15 countries more than the baseline)	0

¹ Small island developing states, such as the Pacific, can have a shared sub-regional, resource person, rather than staff in each country

