



# Global Strategy to improve agricultural and rural statistics



Annual consolidated narrative report

# 2014

## 1. General Information

<b>Date of submission: 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015</b>
<b>Reporting period: 2014</b>

	<b>Total Budget 2014 (USD)</b>
Africa	5,386,780
Asia	3,188,290
CIS	0
Latin America	0
Near East	0
Global Office	6,084,855
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,659,925</b>

### Other sources of funding

ADB funding 557,770 USD

<b>Signature of the Global Office Coordinator</b>


<b>Signature of the Fund Administrator</b>


## 2. Executive Summary

Following the priorities defined as the way forward for 2015 included in the previous progress report, almost all the objectives fixed for 2014 have been reached:

The **Global Office** has: i) established better coordination mechanisms with regional implementing partners; ii) made considerable efforts in coordinating the Global Strategy's work with other statistical capacity development initiatives and in rolling out the Global Strategy's communication plan; iii) developed a new M&E framework, paying special attention to the coordination of the various regional frameworks; iv) prioritized and accelerated the implementation of research activities, developing the related guidelines and technical materials; and v) contributed to putting in place the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on agricultural and rural statistics. Efforts are still to be made in raising additional funds for underfunded regions.

In **Africa**, AfDB released a report including the results of the first stage of the country assessment process and supported the Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics' process in 7 countries. The FAO Regional Office, in collaboration with AfDB, provided technical assistance for undertaking the In-depth Country Assessments in 7 countries. In connection with the training activities, UNECA started upgrading the capacity of regional training centres and provided scholarships for long-term and short-term studies. Furthermore, UNECA organized workshops and seminars in order to ensure that training needs are integrated into sector plans. The planned work of mapping the CAADP M&E framework has been postponed to 2015 due to the complete revision of the CAADP Results framework, which was carried out in 2014.

In **Asia and the Pacific**, the FAO Regional Office finalized the In-depth Country Assessments in 5 countries and started the work in 3 other countries. In addition, ESCAP/SIAP conducted several workshops to ensure that the training needs are integrated into sector plans; strengthened the capacity of national and regional training institutions; and developed standard curricula, syllabuses and e-learning material.

**Countries** are taking actions and initiatives in response to the Global Strategy. They are increasingly requesting support in using cost-effective methodologies and are addressing detailed research needs to the implementing partners of the Global Strategy. The progressive availability and use of cost-effective methods and the increasing partnerships created under the umbrella of the Global Strategy contribute to achieving the overall goal of collecting better data. On-going progress is collected, tracked and disseminated through the Global Strategy website, the e-bulletin issued on a monthly basis by the Global Office and the websites of the implementing partners.

### 2.1 Progress towards the Global Logical Framework

The description below provides a summary of the major achievements towards the four outputs of the Global Strategy:

#### OUTPUT 1

##### Effective governing bodies set up and functioning at global and regional levels

**Governance meetings:** By the end of 2014, a total of 9 **Global and Regional Steering Committee meetings** (GSCs) were organized. At global level, two face-to-face GSC meetings and one virtual GSC meeting were organized. The 8th GSC meeting, which took place in March 2014, served the purpose of approving the allocation of funds to the Global Office and Asia and the Pacific for 2014. During electronic consultation of the GSC, which took place in July 2014, the allocation of funds to Africa and the proposal to reorganize the regional secretariat for the implementation of the Global Strategy in Africa, were approved. The 9th GSC meeting, held in September 2014, offered an opportunity to update GSC members on the status of the research programme and on the major achievements of the training component. In addition, members were briefed on the country results obtained in the Africa and Asia/Pacific regions, the status of implementation, and on synergies between the Global Strategy and other ongoing statistical capacity development initiatives.

Three electronic consultations of the **Global Executive Board (GEB)** were organized in 2014: the first one took place in February, to endorse the workplans 2014 for Asia/Pacific and the Global Office (on behalf of the GSC); the second one was organized in April, to approve the request of the African Development Bank to be reimbursed the expenses incurred prior to the establishment of the regional trust fund; and finally, the third one took place in June to approve Africa's annual workplan.

In **Africa**, the 3rd Face-to-face **Regional Steering Committee (RSC)** meeting was organized on 30 April -1 May 2014 in Nairobi, Kenya. Some of the key outcomes of the 3rd RSC meeting include: (i) the approval of AfDB's proposal to handover the chairmanship of the committee. In this regard, Uganda and Cabo Verde were nominated as co-chairs of the RSC; (ii) the approval of the workplan and budget for the calendar year 2014; (iii) the endorsement of the methodology and results of the country assessments on "Agricultural Statistics Capacity Indicators (ASCI)" and the recommendation that the reports be translated in French and Portuguese (and possibly Arabic for Libya); and (iv) the agreement to undertake country assessments at a reduced scale (limited to ASCI) in 2015 and at a full scale in 2017.

In **Asia and the Pacific**, the third meeting of the **RSC** was held in November 2014 to identify additional countries for 2015, namely: Afghanistan, Cambodia, the Maldives, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam. In addition, the RSC recommended that a cluster of Pacific Island Countries be selected in conjunction with the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) and that a revised IdCA approach be trialed. During the meeting, additional discussions were held on country proposals, particularly, on establishing which short-medium term activities should be supported and on the proposed changes to the RSC membership.

Great efforts have been put forth to enhance the **coordination mechanisms** among participating partners and other related initiatives. Regular meetings between implementing partners were held, particularly, a meeting between Regional Implementing Partners in Africa, Asia and Global Office took place in Rome in September. Furthermore, the Global Office systematically attends all Regional Steering Committee meetings in Asia-Pacific and Africa, and the Technical Assistance and Training Coordinator of the Global Office is also fostering cooperation between the two implementing regions. With regard to coordination, a AfDB/UNECA/FAO joint mission was organized at UNECA's African Centre for Statistics in Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia, on 7-11 July 2014, to prepare the 5-Year workplan, budget and logframe of the Action Plan for Africa, which were thus reviewed, updated and aligned to the Global ones. Another example of improved coordination efforts is ECA's participation to ESCAP's regional conference, organized by SIAP in Tsukuba, Japan, to deliberate on the implementation of the training component.

**Regional and Global Offices:** The Global Office and Regional Office for the Asia-Pacific region were established and are now functioning. In addition, almost all the positions planned for those offices have been filled and their work is being supported by long-term consultants. In Africa, the Regional Office has been established and is composed of a Senior Regional Statistician, a Task Manager for Agriculture statistics, and long-term consultants. UNECA has also recruited consultants to carry out the allocated tasks.

**Regional action plans:** Throughout 2014, the Global Office supported the preparation of **regional action plans** in the three regions that are still lacking funds (Latin America, Near East, CIS countries).

In the **Latin America and Caribbean** region the draft Regional Action Plan is currently under review prior to final submission. The Inter-American Development Bank is also contributing to the implementation of the Global Strategy in this region through the funding of activities aimed at improving methodologies of agricultural surveys.

In the **Near East**, UNESCWA and the FAO Regional Office were mandated by the regional statistics commission to develop a Regional Action Plan for the Near East, which is still under development.

In CIS, the first draft of the Regional Action Plan for CIS countries was endorsed by the Interstate Statistical Committee of CIS countries (CISSTAT) and the final draft is at its latest stage of finalization. The region has benefited from a contribution of the World Bank for carrying out activities that will contribute to the objectives of the Global Strategy.

**MoUs:** The agreements with DFID and BMGF were amended in 2014 in order to extend the end date of the programme until December 2017.

**Resource mobilization efforts:** Following intensive advocacy efforts, AfDB and UNECA, with the support of the Global Office, signed a EUR 7,5million grant with the European Commission (EC) to cover the funding gap of the Global Trust Fund in Africa.

CIS-STAT developed a project proposal for harmonizing statistics in CIS countries and has received funding for 500,000 USD from the World Bank. The project was designed in the framework of the Global Strategy and will therefore contribute to the overall objectives of the Global Strategy.

The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) also provided a grant for a total of to 1,150,000 USD to implement the activities of the project entitled “Development of a Methodology for the Implementation of Agricultural Statistical Systems in Latin America and the Caribbean”. This project is also connected with the framework of the Global Strategy.

**Organization of technical meetings:** The Global Office organized the 2nd and 3rd **Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)** meetings in January 2014 and November 2014. The SAC provided recommendations on the following topics: Integrated Survey Framework, Master Sampling Frame, linking area frames with list frames, SEEA guidelines, crop estimates, use of remote sensing, integration of geographic information, AGRIS methodology, World Programme for Census 2020, Cost of Production, and fishery and aquaculture statistics.

The **Inter-Agency and Expert Group (IAEG)** on agricultural and rural statistics was endorsed during the 45th session of the UNSC, as a new mechanism to document good practices and develop new guidelines on concepts, methods and statistical standards for food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development. In this regard, the IAEG replaced the Wye City Group on Statistics, on Rural Development and Agriculture Household Income by expanding its mandate so as to cover the entire range of indicators on rural development. Additional tasks of the IAEG are to facilitate the coordination and integration of statistics on food security, sustainable agriculture, and rural development with other international statistical standards of related statistical domains, and to advise the Global Office on the research programme of the Global Strategy.

In Africa, several meetings were organised in the margins of regional events: on the margin of the 9th African Symposium on Statistical Development, a meeting with the heads of national statistics offices on the Statistical Capacity-Building Program was organized in February 2014 in Gaborone, Botswana; and, during the first joint session of the Committee of Directors General of National Statistics Offices and the Statistical Commission for Africa, which took place in Tunis on 8-12 December 2014, an update on the implementation of the GS was provided.

**Monitoring and Evaluation:** The Global Office staff, supported by two M&E experts, finalized the design of a new Monitoring and Evaluation framework that allows to report at a more detailed level and, at the same time, to aggregate reports at global and regional level. The regions and the GSC members, including the major donors, were involved in this revision work. During the month of June, a meeting to discuss the appropriate M&E framework in Africa was organized in Tunis, and another meeting to discuss the M&E framework in A&P was organized in Bangkok. In addition, the M&E experts visited each donor institution.

The main orientations of the revised M&E framework were presented at the 9<sup>th</sup> GSC meeting. The document pays particular attention to the coordination of various regional frameworks, bearing in mind the importance of having easily measurable and meaningful indicators. In this respect, the new Global Strategy's logical framework was revised on the basis of the three pillars and the four major outputs of the programme. The new framework allows monitoring of activities and reporting at country level. The purpose of these new dimensions is to capture country-specific activities by identifying explicit country-level indicators both in terms of outputs and activities.

**Advocacy, Communication:** At **global level**, the communication plan of the Global Office was rolled out in 2014. Several advocacy materials were produced and a coordinated graphic design system was developed and shall be adopted by the regions. Major efforts have been placed on issuing the GS monthly e-Bulletin and developing the [GS website](#).

In **Africa**, AfDB is issuing a quarterly bulletin on the implementation at regional level in collaboration with UNECA. Furthermore, ECA is primarily employing the platform of the African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resources Development (AGROST) for advocacy purposes and for drawing attention to developing and strengthening the agricultural statistics human capital.

The Regional Office for **Asia and the Pacific** developed a draft regional communication plan in line with the global communication plan. In this respect, promotional materials adopting the newly established visual identity were also developed. In addition, the Regional Office for Asia-Pacific organized a *Briefing and Partnership Consultation on the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Asia and the Pacific* in November 2014. The advocacy activities will be focused on the identified technical assistance needs.

## OUTPUT 2

### Coordinating bodies of the NSS, legal frameworks and SPARS to enable the integration of agriculture into the NSS

Under the technical assistance component, the first stage country assessment, which allows the identification of priority countries in each region and provides an indication of the major needs for technical assistance at country level, was completed in Africa and Asia and the Pacific. The assessment was also completed in 13 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. The Africa region published the results of this exercise in November 2014, covering 52 countries. The first self-assessments were followed by In-depth Country Assessments (IdCA) in Africa and Asia-Pacific. Those assessments, in fact, correspond to the assessment phase of the SPARS (Strategic Plans for Agricultural and Rural Statistics).

In relation to the Global Strategy activities and, as part of the preparatory phase of its implementation, In-depth Country Assessments were completed by the FAO Regional Office in Africa thanks to a grant received by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in the following countries: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mali, Nigeria, Ghana, Ethiopia and Uganda. As part of this grant, a validation workshop was organized to validate the results of the IdCA process.

In November-December 2014, AfDB also conducted a survey in its regional member countries to identify priority areas. The TA needs' survey had a significant response rate of 50 out of 54 countries. Details and results of the survey were compiled and published in a report titled "*Identifying Technical Assistance needs for Agricultural Statistics in Africa*".

In Asia and the Pacific, the FAO Regional Office finalized the In-depth Country Assessments of Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Samoa and Sri Lanka, and started the assessments in Fiji, Lao People's Democratic Republic and Myanmar.

**SPARS:** The SPARS (Strategic Plans for Agricultural and Rural statistics) guidelines have been designed and finalized, and have started being rolled-out in pilot countries. Particular attention is paid to integrate the In-depth Country Assessment process into the SPARS process in order to expedite the preparation process of strategic plans so as to allow a faster implementation in developing countries. A joint AfDB/FAO mission was undertaken to Bujumbura, Burundi on 19-26 March 2014 with the objective of field-testing the guidelines for developing SPARS prior to their introduction in other countries. By the end of 2014, Burundi Cabo Verde and Benin completed their SPARS process, while Senegal, Kenya, Cote d'Ivoire, and Sudan have recently engaged in the process.

AfDB, FAO and USDA joined efforts to provide support in the finalization of the Action Plan for the Master Plan in Agricultural Statistics in Tanzania. The Global Office and USDA provided the same kind of support to Malawi in finalizing the Action Plan on Agricultural Statistics. In terms of Technical Assistance, AfDB also provided specific support to Cabo Verde in the preparation of the Census of Agriculture, and to Rwanda in the finalization of the 2013 Agricultural Survey results.

AfDB, in collaboration with the National Statistical Office and the Ministry of Agriculture of Mozambique, organized a regional workshop in Maputo on 17-21 November 2014 for the implementation of the GS at regional level. During the workshop, the 84 participants were fully updated on the achievements attained so far, briefed on newly developed methods, including instructions on how to develop SPARS. Furthermore, country specific and priority/urgent Technical Assistance needs were discussed and agreed upon, which should form a basis for a technical assistance work plan for 2015.

## OUTPUT 3

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

The research plan for 2014 was strategically organized by grouping the various research topics in ten main research themes. In order to increase the efficiency of the implementation of each theme and expedite the delivery of research results, the following approach was adopted: i) a detailed workplan was developed for each topic; ii) work was carried out in close collaboration with consultants to finalise and publish some early results of the research started in 2013 and reviewed by the Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC); iii) qualified research institutions were identified through Requests for Proposals and the best institutions selected for outsourcing part of the research activities under the technical supervision of the Global Office; and iv) complementarities and synergies were built with research activities undertaken by other initiatives such as a Livestock project implemented by FAO, the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) project implemented by FAO and the World Bank /Living Standard Measurement Survey (LSMS) project.

An overview of the status of activities in 2014, divided by research themes is presented below.

Under the theme "**Framework for Agricultural Statistics**", four activities are being conducted. On the topic "*System of environmental economic account for agriculture (now entitled System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries -SEEA-AFF)*", the concept note on SEEA-AFF was reviewed by the SAC, and draft guidelines were developed and reviewed by an International Expert Group in early October 2014. During 2014, the field testing in 4 countries (Indonesia, Canada, Australia, and Colombia) commenced.

On the topic "*Integrated survey framework*", the technical report was finalised and published in July 2014.

With regards to the "*Development of AGRIS -Agricultural and Rural Integrated Survey*", an integrated approach of regular surveys to collect the minimum set of core data was developed in 2014. In addition, the revision

work for the topic “*Revision of the minimum set of core data*”, which is directly linked with the AGRIS tool and the variables of the new guidelines for the Agricultural Census (WCA2020), has been finalized.

**Improved methodologies for Master Sampling Frames:** Under the theme “Improving methodologies for Master Sampling Frames (MSF)” 3 research topics were undertaken: i) *Identifying the most appropriate sampling frame for specific landscape types*; ii) *Improving methods for linking area frames with list frames*; and iii) *Improving the use of GPS, GIS and RS for setting up a master sampling frame*. Technical Reports on all 3 topics were reviewed by the SAC and disseminated through the Global Strategy website. In parallel, a draft Handbook on Master Sampling Frame was developed, reviewed during the SAC meeting, and presented during an expert meeting that was held in November 2014 in Rome. Furthermore, the field tests in 3 pilot countries (Nepal, Rwanda and Guatemala) are on-going and the results will be used to revise the Handbook.

**Improving data collection methods:** Under the theme “Improving data collection methods”, 3 research topics were carried out.

On the research topic “*Methods for estimating cost of production in developing countries*” draft guidelines were published in August 2014, along with an exhaustive Literature Review (published jointly with the Joint Research Centre of The European Commission). Field tests started in Tunisia, Indonesia and Colombia and the results will be used for revising the guidelines.

On the research topic “*Improving methods for estimating post-harvest losses (PHL)*”, a small technical group comprising statisticians and subject matter specialists was set-up in FAO to work with the consultant. A first technical report and literature review were produced, and synergies are being built through a wider network on Food Losses and Waste led by World Resource Institute.

On the research topic “*New technology for field data capture, compilation*” a CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) software was developed by the World Bank/LSMS (Living Standards Measurement Study) team with the support of the Global Strategy. The software is currently available and functional.

**Improving methods for estimating livestock and livestock products:** Under the theme “Improving methods for estimating livestock and livestock products”, the University of New England in Australia was selected as the best institution to conduct research on this topic.

**Improving food security statistics methods:** Under the theme “Improving food security statistics methods” there are two main research topics. The research topic “*Improving methods for measuring food consumption*” is being undertaken by a technical working group, created in the framework of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Agricultural and Rural Statistics (IAEG). Activities under this theme are reported on separately. On the research topic “*Improving methodology of food balance sheets*”, research carried out by the FAO Statistics Division will serve as a basis for drafting revised guidelines to implement the methodology at country level.

**Improving methods for crops estimates:** Under the theme “*Improving methods for crop estimates*”, an agreement was signed at the end of 2014 with the Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute (IASRI) for developing methods for estimating crop areas, yields and production under different cropping conditions (pure stand, mix and continuous cropping). Another field of research is related to the methods for *estimating yields of root crops*. The WB/LSMS team in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture and Natural Resources of Zanzibar, and in conjunction with its land area measurement work, validated methods for measuring cassava production using daily cassava diaries, recall surveys, and crop-cutting.

**Improving the methodology for using Remote Sensing:** Under this research, three research topics were planned. A technical paper was finalized and published on the topic “*Efficient and accurate methods for using remote sensing*”. Two draft reports were produced on the topic “*Methods for using land cover/land use databases*”. The first one, entitled “The preliminary analysis for data preparation and collection”, reports on

previous work and findings related to the existing national land cover databases and the relative cost of alternative resolution/scale products. The second one, entitled “Improving methods for using existing land cover – land use databases for agricultural statistics”, synthesizes data needs and available land cover / land use datasets, proposes field test approaches to evaluate available platforms and sensors, cost-effectiveness indicators and a field test approach for validating Earth Observation products. Field tests are being organised and the results will be illustrated in the final guidelines. On the topic “*Cost-efficiency of remote sensing in developing countries*”, an initial literature review was conducted.

**Improving quality and use of administrative data to produce agricultural statistics:** The Iowa State University and Makerere University in Uganda were selected to work jointly on the theme “Improving quality and use of administrative data”. Their first and second Technical reports, including a literature review and gap analysis were produced in 2014.

**Improving methodology for small scale fishery:** Two topics were planned for the theme “Indicators and collection methods for small scale fisheries”, and two draft guidelines are currently in the process of being finalized on the topic “Developing a module for fishery, aquaculture for censuses and surveys”.

**Better integration of geographic information and statistics:** Under the theme “Better integration of geographic information and statistics”, there is a specific research line on the development of robust and statistically based methods for spatial disaggregation and for integration of various kinds of geographical information and geo-referenced survey data. The research paper on this topic has been finalized and is pending revision for publication.

**Repository for sharing the results of the research component:** In order to make all these results available to the community of users, a repository is being developed and will be operational in the second quarter of 2015.

## OUTPUT 4

### Increased capacity of agricultural statistics’ staff in regional training centers and target countries

**Preparation of guidelines:** Throughout 2014, a total of 16 publications, including technical papers, were produced by the Global Office. All publications are available at the [Global Strategy Website](#). The following guidelines were made available in July: “*Strategic Plans for Agriculture and Rural Statistics (SPARS)*”; “*Assessing country capacity to produce agricultural and rural statistics*” and “*In-depth Country Assessments*”. The guidelines on “*Providing access to agricultural Microdata*” were published in August, and finally, the guidelines on *Estimating Green House Gas Emissions (GHG)* were finalized in November. Furthermore, a report on the Minimum Set of Core Data was completed in December 2014. In addition, substantial progress has been made on the following guidelines: i) *Guidelines on integrated survey framework*; ii) *Handbook on methods for estimating cost of production in developing countries*; iii) *Guidelines on agricultural classifications*; iv) *Guidelines on fisheries and aquaculture in the census framework*; and v) *Guidelines on nomadic livestock*.

**Preparation of training material:** The Global Office finalized the *e-learning material for linking population and agricultural censuses* in 2014. The dissemination process and actual training will start in 2015.

**Training activities in Africa:** Under the responsibility of UNECA, significant progress has been made in 2014 on the training component in Africa. The implementation of training activities, which include the development of curricula for regional training, assessments of training needs and the strengthening of existing training institutions, is also well advanced, particularly in Africa. The curricula were validated at an Expert Group Meeting that was held in Rabat, Morocco, in June 2014. Furthermore, Training of Trainers was delivered in partnership with UNIDEP for 27 experts from 18 countries on the topics of Economic Accounts for Agriculture and Agricultural Data Processing. The training took place in Dakar, Senegal, in September 2014.

The provision of scholarships through the Regional Action Plan and implementation partners has proved to be very successful (33 students have started a training on agricultural statistics at Masters level, provided by the best Universities and Regional Statistics Training Centers specialized in Agricultural Statistics in Africa: ENSEA-Abidjan, ENSAE- Dakar, EASTC Dar-Es-Salaam and ISSEA-Yaoundé). Furthermore, UNECA's efforts were placed on developing harmonized curricula for formal training at three different levels, and standardized syllabuses in support of regional training institutions in Africa, for the following topics: i) Sampling Design for Agricultural Surveys; ii) Agricultural Data Processing and Dissemination; iii) Economic Accounts for Agriculture; iv) Agricultural Census and Surveys. Moreover, two training sessions were organized: the first one for HR managers in Agricultural Statistics Offices, in order to enable better training needs' assessments; and the second one for national statisticians working in agencies responsible for the production of agricultural statistics to enable them to produce timely and reliable agricultural, rural development and food security information.

All training modules and Human Resources development material developed in the previous phase of the project were prepared in French and English and disseminated to the relevant stakeholders and partner institutions. The annual performance review of the training component was discussed at the annual review meeting of the African Group for Statistical Training, which was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, in November 2014.

**Training activities in Asia and the Pacific:** Training activities in Asia and the Pacific are also progressing well. A Network meeting for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific was organized by ESCAP in cooperation with the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) to foster coordination and information-sharing across statistical training centers. A sub-group for agricultural and rural statistics was formed to support the implementation of the Global Strategy, and to this end, SIAP organized the *6th Workshop on Forging Partners in Statistical Training: Coordination and Networking for Agricultural and Rural Statistics* and an Expert Group meeting to discuss the development of a common Core Skills Framework and tools to carry out a Training Needs Assessment in the region. The following regional workshop was organized in connection with Global Strategy activities: *Regional Training Course on Sampling Methods for Producing Core Data Items for Agricultural and Rural Statistics* (in collaboration with BPS-Statistics Indonesia).

In addition, a series of training-of-trainers' workshops on *Building Training Resources for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics* have brought together 83 (21 in 2014) statisticians and training specialists from national statistical offices and ministries of agriculture to review the status and practices related to agricultural and rural statistics, identify technical issues and capacity gaps, present and discuss guidelines and good practices on statistical methods and explore content and approaches for training. In addition, a regional training course programme on sampling methods for agricultural statistics was launched in 2014 with 24 participants from 12 countries attending. Participating countries for these regional courses were Bangladesh, Bhutan, China, Fiji, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. The statistical training institutes of India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran and Republic of Korea hosted, on a cost-sharing basis, the workshops.

To increase capacity to use statistics for policymaking, the RAP training component collaborated with the ESCAP Centre for Alleviation of Poverty through Sustainable Agriculture in implementing an ongoing CAPSA series of policy analysis workshops on food security, poverty alleviation and sustainable agriculture. In two workshops conducted in 2013 and one in 2014, 86 statisticians, policy makers and researchers from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Thailand participated to strengthen their understanding of challenges facing the global food and agricultural system and their analytical capacity to formulate and carry out focused analyses and studies.

## Synergies with other activities

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The implementation of Global Strategy activities in 2014 was carried out in close collaboration with other statistical initiatives, namely: i) the WCA2020 (World Census of Agriculture), ii) the AMIS project, whose research activities are directly linked to the Global Strategy; iii) the USAID initiatives on capacity building, iv) the Japanese Rice project (CARD) and v) the support provided by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to the Regional Action Plan in the Asia-Pacific region.

The **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations** (FAO) is the lead UN agency in charge of promoting the decennial World Programme for the Census of Agriculture (WCA). FAO is currently in the process of finalizing the development of the guidelines for the WCA 2020 programme, which will cover the period of 2016-2025. One of the main and innovative features of the programme is its close linkage to the Global Strategy. The census of agriculture in fact, is one of the cornerstones of the Global Strategy as a major source of input for the minimum set of core data (first pillar), and in relation to the integration (second pillar) of agriculture into the national statistical system through a master sample frame and a system of integrated agricultural censuses and surveys promoted by the Global Strategy (AGRIS). Extensive work was carried out to ensure the alignment of the minimum set of core data, recommended by the Global Strategy, with the AGRIS tool and the new features of the WCA 2020 programme, which are reported separately.

The methodological development conducted by the **Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS)**, is carried out in close connection with the research agenda of the Global Strategy as most of the activities initially planned under market statistics are covered by the AMIS project. Covered domains include direct measurement of grain crop stocks, yield forecasting and market price information systems. Limited IT developments such as mobile data collection solutions are also funded. Tailored support is being provided to Governments to address the national priorities identified jointly with FAO, and synergies are being established with other partners' relevant activities at national level.

The **USAID** launched an initiative called CARDS (Core Agricultural Data Surveys), which is aimed at accelerating existing efforts to strengthen countries' capacity to generate agricultural data. This initiative is integrated into the conceptual framework and processes outlined by the Global Strategy so as to not overlap with the data generation process parallel of the Global Strategy. The initiative is designed to build greater demand for quality data by providing the needed data, thus demonstrating the benefits of available data and enabling governments to experience the advantages of having first-hand data. Countries will therefore receive support in generating critical data to make the rationale of the global strategy more salient and compelling. A first cycle of the project is planned for 2015-2021, covering 8 countries. As one of the main features for developing cost-effective methods, the Global Strategy aims at building an integrated approach of regular surveys (AGRIS - Agriculture and Rural Integrated Survey) to help countries collect the minimum set of core data related to the economic, social and environmental dimensions. As such, AGRIS contributes directly to the CARDS initiative and may be a good option, providing a methodology and instruments for integrated surveys that countries can use within the CARDS framework.

The FAO project "**Strengthening Agricultural Statistics and Food Security Information in CARD (Coalition for African Rice Development) countries through South-South Cooperation 2013-2018**", funded by Japan, aims at implementing and further developing the National Rice Development Strategies that have been designed or are in the process of being designed by countries, by improving agricultural statistics, particularly, data on rice production. The project will identify appropriate statistical methods implemented in ASEAN countries, test suitability in countries selected by CARD, and conduct capacity development of local institutions through in-country training and regional workshops, carried out to enhance the design, implementation and supervision processes of field surveys using the selected methods. Nine countries are part of the project and implementation is underway. A regional workshop is planned for the first quarter of 2015 to evaluate the results of the pre-test and discuss the way forward with the selected countries. The Global Office is working

closely with the CARD management to ensure that methodological developments be disseminated through the Global Strategy and made available to a large number of countries, possibly through joint publications.

In 2014, the **Asian Development Bank (ADB)** contributed with its own funding to the implementation of the Global Strategy in Asia and the Pacific through the project “Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics for Food Security”, operational in different countries. Methodological studies were undertaken in Bhutan and Lao PDR (comparison of existing sources of agricultural statistics), Philippines (Use of Agricultural Land Information System for area estimates) and Viet Nam (Design of Livestock Survey); innovative data collection methods were tested in the field of rice statistics with the use of radar and optical imagery (in Lao PDR, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam); and statistical training was provided in Lao PDR, Bhutan and Viet Nam. All these experiences are useful and provide direct inputs for the research component of the Global Strategy. Closer synergies with the ADB are foreseen throughout 2015.

Furthermore, synergies are being built between the Global Strategy and the **CAADP Comprehensive Agricultural African Development Programme processes in Africa**. The main objectives of the CAADP are to help countries reach a higher path of economic growth through agriculture-led development, and to eliminate hunger and reduce poverty through agriculture by increasing public investment in agriculture and raising agricultural productivity. CAADP is the agricultural programme of NEPAD (New Partnership for Africa’s Development), in turn, an African Union programme since 2003. The programme is implemented by the Regional Economic Communities (RECs) and countries, with the support of the African Union Commission and NEPAD, and materialized through National Agricultural and Food Security Investment Plans (NAIFPS). Twenty-eight countries have developed NAIFPS, however, one of the main issues faced by the CAADP M&E framework was the lack of quality data for measuring the progress and impact of the established policies. The recent declaration of Heads of States in Malabo, that took place in June 2014, recommitted on the key principles and values, and particularly, on mutual accountability to actions and results. A Task-Force was established for reviewing the CAADP results framework and elaborating a strategy for implementing the Malabo declaration. The Global Office was a member of this task-force, and one of the strategic action areas proposed was directly linked with the strengthening of national capacities for producing the data required for CAADP planning, management and monitoring. This will constitute an opportunity to ensure that the development of the agricultural statistical system is directly embedded into the design of the next generation of NAIFPS, and that funds will be made available to the national statistical system through the funding of a development policy. Various activities involving CAADP implementing partners, the Global Office and implementing partners of the Global Strategy in Africa, have been planned to ensure synergies between the Global Strategy and the CAADP processes. Activities include: an evaluation of the existing NAIFPS, mapping the indicators of the new CAADP results framework with the minimum set of core data; the preparation of guidelines for integrating a statistical dimension into NAIFPS; rolling out the guidelines in a series of pilot countries; and the provision of TA/Training.

## 2.2 Risk mitigation strategy

The major risk of the programme is the lack of funding in some regions, namely, in CIS, Near East and LAC. The initial seed funding allocated to the regions did not suffice for completing their regional action plans therefore the Global Office had to support the development of the regional action plans in these regions.

While regional and global rosters of experts have been developed, difficulties are still been encountered in finding qualified experts in the field of agricultural statistics. This issue should be solved thanks to the South-South cooperation approach, by using countries that have benefited from the technical assistance/training to help other countries.

Another risk is the coordination in the implementation of the activities funded outside the global trust fund. In order to overcome this risk, the regional offices will develop a workplan, dividing the activities funded by the

Global Trust Fund and the activities funded by other sources of funding. This will allow the identification of complementarities and avoid duplication of funding.

The relevance of the training activities in Africa, particularly, the benefits of the scholarship programme, were initially underestimated in the regional action plan. In this respect, a proposal for revising the integrated budget in Africa was developed in order to increase the funds allocated to the training component.

## 2.3 Key achievements

The key achievements of 2014 are the following:

1. In 2014, remarkable efforts have been placed on accelerating the production of cost-effective methodologies. These methodologies are reflected in handbooks and guidelines which will be used for the provision of technical assistance at regional level.
2. Substantial efforts have been made in ensuring a better coordination with international initiatives in the field of capacity development for agricultural statistics. Furthermore, coordination with the regional implementing partners was improved. Operational mechanisms are now being applied by all partners, and a harmonized monitoring and evaluation system is in place.
3. Significant efforts have been placed in the field of communication and advocacy, particularly at national level. As a result of these efforts, the number of country-driven requests for TAs is increasing significantly.
4. Implementation of training activities is also well-advanced. In addition, the improvement of coordination among implementing partners across the regions allows a better development of mechanisms for providing coordinated training on agricultural and rural statistics.
5. The institutional coordination at country level is being strengthened through the establishment of the required national governance structures. Political interest and commitment in improving agricultural and rural statistics at national level was ensured thanks to the SPARS development process. In this respect, volunteering High Authorities were requested to champion the process, and advocate and support resource mobilization as required.

## 2.4 Key challenges

The 5 key challenges in 2014 were:

1. The long recruitment processes, which particularly affected the Global Office and UNECA.
2. The workload of the Global Office is larger than initially planned. To give a concrete example - the time dedicated to the management of the research agenda was underestimated, as well as the workload of communication activities. Considering the limited capacity of the Global Office staff, long-term consultants have been engaged to technically support the implementation of the research agenda and to carry out the communication and advocacy activities.
3. The difficulty in identifying available experts in the field of agricultural statistics has directly affected the timely implementation of activities. This is one of the reasons for which the Global Office has organized the delivery of the research agenda in a strategic manner.

4. The issue of finding ways to efficiently transfer know-how from the global to the regional and country levels is still an issue, which has to be solved by requesting increased coordination between the Global and the Regional Offices.
5. The lack of funding for LAC, CIS and Near East regions, and the existing funding gaps in the Asia-Pacific region.
6. At country level, some countries are facing issues in terms of resources to ensure that the national governance structures are fully and effectively operational, and that the implementation of the SPARS that have been developed is funded.

## 2.5 Issues affecting potential sustainability of the GS at global level

The main issues affecting the potential sustainability of the Global Strategy at global level are directly linked with some of the 5 challenges described above:

- The funding GAP jeopardizes the overall sustainability of the program. As of 2016, it will not only affect the implementation of the Global Strategy in underfunded regions but also the sustainability of the research component and the production of associated guidelines. Furthermore, the funding gap will also affect the implementation of activities at regional level, particularly in Asia and the Pacific.
- The sustainability of the Global Strategy's funding structure and activities may be affected if potential donors decide to earmark their contributions and fund activities within the scope of the Global Strategy outside the Global Trust Fund.
- The existing administrative processes, which concern the planning and implementation of activities, are particularly heavy due to the governance structure.
- The use of long-term consultants (rather than recruiting staff for the positions planned in the integrated budget) does not guarantee a continuity of activities and does not always allow implementing partners to build their own capacity.
- The Global Strategy funds the strengthening process of statistical capacities but not data collection in countries. The question of the overall funding of the agricultural statistical system needs to be adequately addressed at country level to guarantee the sustainability of the Global Strategy.

### 3. Progress against the Global Logical Framework

Global Output <sup>1</sup>	Global Indicator	Global Baseline	Global Target	Achievement to date	Comments
1. Effective governing bodies set up and functioning at Global and Regional Levels	1.1 Regional Action Plans developed	1	5	3 completed 2 to be finalized	
	1.2 Consolidated reports submitted to GSC/GEB/Donors	0	5	2 (not including this report)	3 including this report
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	2.1 Integration of agricultural and rural statistics into the NSDSs or National Statistical Strategies	0	77 (70% of target countries)	25	7 in A&P 18 in Africa
	2.2 National budget for agricultural statistics	0	Increase in national budget	6	6 in A&P Not available for Africa as they are awaiting the results of the light CA questionnaire
3. New cost effective methods for data collection, analysis and dissemination developed	3.1 Number of guidelines, reports, produced on funded research topics	0	24	16	Technical papers and guidelines
	3.2 Number of publications on funded research topics published in scientific journals	0	24	0	Indicator to be reviewed (should match country needs)
4. Increased capacity of agricultural statistics staff in regional training centers and target countries	4.1 Regional training centers with permanent qualified trainers/staff	One/two for each centre	Four for each centre	31 experts	4 in A&P and 27 in Africa
	4.2 Statistical staff with core statistical skills in the countries	0 target countries	At least 15 countries more than the baseline	30 countries	In Africa 27 experts from 18 countries and 164 experts in A&P coming from 12 countries

<sup>1</sup> Global Outputs, Indicators, Baselines and Targets are those defined in the Global Logical Framework.

### 3.1 Risk Management

#### **Are the risks identified in the Global Logical Framework being effectively mitigated?**

The risks have been well identified and appropriate individual mitigation strategies adapted. The countries are committed, advocacy efforts are being made, seed money has been allocated to regions for developing Action Plans, and the Scientific Advisory Committee is operating efficiently. One last mitigation measure may be required: the revision and adjustment of the governing process.

#### **Are there any issues to report on that need to be brought to the attention of the Global Steering Committee in this regard?**

Following the 7th GSC meeting (held on 22 October 2013 in Rio de Janeiro), the process of revising the GS' Monitoring Framework commenced in June 2014 to increase consistency between the global and regional levels and to propose meaningful and measurable indicators .

#### **Is there a need to revise or update the risks and their respective mitigation activities?**

Since the overall M&E framework has been revised, a review of the risks and mitigation measures will also be undertaken.

### 3.2 Design Issues

#### **Does the current Global Logical Framework (GLF) still reflect the evolving needs of the Global Strategy and its key stakeholders?**

The exercise for revising the M&E of the GS started in 2014. The new M&E framework pays particular attention to the coordination of the various regional frameworks, bearing in mind the importance of having easily measurable and meaningful indicators. In this respect, the new Global Strategy's logical framework has been revised on the basis of the three pillars and the four major outputs of the programme. In this connection, a methodical assessment of the output indicators was conducted in order to identify the outputs that contribute directly to the Global Strategy and other intermediate outputs, which have been classified as activities. As a result of this revision exercise, the new framework also allows reporting at activity level and country level.

The revised framework will be adopted by all partners and regions. It aims to achieve an optimal level of harmonization between regional and global frameworks and enable to monitor the complementarity of the funding received outside the Global Trust Fund (GTF). In addition, it aims to reflect the catalytic aspect of the GS.

#### **Are there any elements which need to be revised and / or updated? If so, please explain.**

These issues are being addressed in the new framework.

## 4. Key Achievements/Opportunities

Please outline the key achievements of the programme, identifying relevant success stories at country, regional and global level.

1. The delivery of the research agenda has been expedited and the results produced under the research component have been translated into a total of 16 publications.
2. The Global Strategy's implementation has built effective synergies with other statistical initiatives?
3. In order to accelerate the delivery, it has been decided to provide support to countries in designing the SPARS directly, so as to avoid the burden of carrying out two processes: the IdCA and subsequently the SPARS. This change was implemented in Africa, not yet in Asia and the Pacific.
4. Additional efforts in the technical assistance and training components have been put forth in terms of coordination between regions.
5. The funding gap in Africa has been filled thanks to the joint Resource Mobilization efforts conducted by AfDB/UNECA/Global Office.

Please describe any potential opportunity that could contribute to the success of the Global Strategy.

- One of the main challenges for the success of the Global Strategy is to ensure that countries establish the appropriate capacities and resources for developing agricultural statistical systems, which meet the demand of national policies and international requirements. The funds made available by the Global Strategy only cover activities necessary for strengthening their national capacities and it is therefore crucial to develop additional partnerships, mainly at country level, to ensure that data collection is funded by governments with the support of development partners. In this light, the development of partnerships with new donors and an increase of interaction between participating partners and governments, are key elements for ensuring the success of the Global Strategy. An example of this opportunity in Africa is the possible linkage of the agricultural statistics plan with national investment plans (CAADP).
- Cooperation among regions will also contribute to ensure the success of the Global Strategy. The best example is the need for coordination between regions on training activities, for which experience has been gained and needs to be shared.

## 5. Key Challenges/Constraints Encountered

### Is it necessary to change or modify key elements of the programme?

The key elements of the programme do not need to be changed.

### What are the key constraints currently faced in the implementation of the programme?

The current key challenges are:

- The activities of the first quarter of the year are funded by carried forward funds as the proposal for the allocation of funds is normally approved in the months of February-March of the year in which the activities are being implemented. This could represent a potential issue in the future.
- The difficulties in finding available qualified experts in the field of agricultural statistics.
- The use of long-term consultants to replace the planned staff positions indicated in the Global Action Plan.
- The lack of funding for the LAC, CIS and Near East regions and the existing funding gaps for Asia-Pacific.
- The delays in the implementation of the research plan, which have a potential impact on TA and training activities in the countries.

### What action is being taken to address them?

- Funds carried forward are taken into consideration whilst carrying out the allocation of funds, and disbursements are done in two separate instalments so as to ensure that partners are not short of financial resources.
- During the 9<sup>th</sup> GSC meeting it was suggested to build a roster of experts in the field of agricultural statistics.
- A donor conference has been planned for June 2015. The conference is expected to mobilize additional resources to cover at least part of the funding gap.
- The new structure for the implementation of the research component is in place and will speed up delivery.

## 6. Sustainability

### Overall sustainability Ratings at Global and Regional levels

Criteria	Region/Global Office	Overall Rating
Sustainability	Africa	
	Asia	
	CIS	Not relevant
	Latin America	Not relevant
	Near East	Not relevant
	Global Office	

Rating	Percentage rating	Meaning
1	33.3%	Performance is exceptional and significantly above expectations
2	33.3%	Performance meets expectations/on track
3	33.3%	Performance is problematic/below expectations

## 7. Next Steps

At the **Global Office** level, activities planned for 2015 will focus on: a) consolidating the mechanisms of coordination between the Global Office and the regional implementing partners; b) implementing the new M&E framework; c) carrying out the mid-term evaluation of the implementation of the Global Strategy; d) expanding the narrative annual reports so as to cover initiatives aimed at strengthening statistical capacities, thus reinforcing coordination mechanisms between the various initiatives; e) prioritizing research activities according to urgent needs and emerging needs expressed by the countries, and piloting field tests; f) preparing a total of 50 publications (guidelines, technical reports and training material) that can be rapidly employed by regions and countries; g) ensuring that knowledge on new cost-effective methods is appropriately transferred to regions and countries through training and dissemination; h) mobilizing resources for the underfunded regions (LAC, CIS and Near East), and for the Global Office and the Asia-Pacific region by supporting regional donor conferences or global donor conferences; i) contributing to the mobilization of resources at country level so as to ensure a sustainable funding of SPARS; j) ensuring, in collaboration with implementation partners in Africa, that the Global Strategy and the CAADP processes are aligned and contribute to a sustainable delivery of quality data; and k) organizing a mid-term conference in June 2015 to share results and prepare the further steps as discussed.

In **Africa**, the activities planned for 2015 will focus on: a) finalizing support for the design of SPARS in countries that started the process in 2014 and undertaking SPARS in new priority countries, namely, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Congo Democratic Rep., Gambia, Madagascar, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, and South Africa; b) providing technical assistance following the priorities expressed by the countries and taking into account the availability of cost-effective methodologies; c) mapping the CAADP Results framework with the minimum set of core data

of the Global Strategy and providing support to countries in integrating a statistical component in the National Agricultural Investment Plans; d) ensuring that training needs are integrated in SPARS; e) starting to upgrade the capacity of regional training centers; f) continuing to provide scholarships for long-term studies; g) implementing the M&E framework; and h) ensuring the coordination of activities with the Global Office and the other regions; i) carrying out a Light Country Assessment (LCA) process to produce the 2015 ASCI; and j) complete the recruitment of staff working under the training component that is managed by UNECA.

In **Asia and the Pacific**, the activities planned for 2015 will focus on: a) finalizing the In-depth Country Assessments in Indonesia, Lao PDR and Fiji; starting the process in Myanmar and Georgia and in the new priority countries, namely, Afghanistan, Cambodia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Viet Nam; drafting a specific programme of assistance for small island states in the Pacific in collaboration with the SPC (Secretariat of the Pacific Community); b) designing SPARS in the countries that finalized the IdCA process; b) providing technical assistance to countries on topics prioritized in the country proposals; c) ensuring that training needs are integrated in sector plans; d) strengthening capacities of national and regional training institutions; e) developing standard curricula, syllabuses and e-learning material; f) completing the activities carried out under the responsibility of ADB in support of the countries f) implementing the M&E framework and g) ensuring the coordination of activities with the Global Office and the other regions.

In the **other three regions** (Latin America, Near East, CIS), priority will be given to i) the finalization of regional action plans; ii) the mobilization of adequate resources; ii) the implementation of activities contributing to the objectives of the Global Strategy but not funded through the Global Trust Fund.

## 8 Lessons Learned

### Lessons learned – elements of success

Despite the large scope of the programme the amount of time devoted to defining standard operational procedures has helped to avoid fragmentation and reduce the transaction costs related to its implementation. The alignment of workplans and budgets with the integrated budget has helped to better plan the activities according to the Global Action Plan. This has also allowed partners to submit the regional workplans on time.

The Global Strategy's stakeholders are committed towards the success of the Global Strategy at global, regional and country level. There is a strong interest in the coordination of activities related to strengthening statistical capacity around the Global Strategy, which is considered as a reference platform for providing technical assistance to developing countries in the field of statistics. The extension of partnerships is important but at the same time challenging in terms of coordination and alignment of activities. Moreover, there is a strong demand from countries, which understand that the Global Strategy is a unique opportunity for better mainstreaming agricultural statistics in the national statistical system and building a system able to respond in a sustainable way to national and international requirements.

### Lessons learned –constraints

Substantial coordination efforts have served to ensure that the regional element acts as a channel for the global framework to integrate regional needs; undertake country assessments; provide technical assistance and training at national level; and liaise with international, regional and sub-regional offices. Because of the delay in the implementation of some of these activities, the Global Office has decided to strengthen the coordination mechanisms, to review the existing M&E framework and to propose a simplification of administrative processes in the future.

Following experiences with the initial target countries, it has been decided to include the development of IdCAs into the SPARS process, rather than consider them as a separate activity.

A programme of such large dimensions should have planned a more progressive schedule of implementation, which takes into account the reality. In this respect, strong efforts have been placed on planning the implementation of activities according to the existing human resources. This has served as the basis for identifying the research topics that will be carried out by specialized institutions. Finally, the experience of quick wins should have also oriented the initial work programme of the Global Office.