



**Global Strategy to Improve
Agricultural and Rural Statistics – Asia Pacific**

Regional Action Plan in Asia and the Pacific

Workplan 2017

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this report is to describe the activities to be implemented by the Participating Partners in Asia and the Pacific in 2017, for approval.

The report follows a narrative approach by presenting the activities in the region by the major areas of work: Coordination; technical assistance and training. The estimated associated costs are presented in **an attached spreadsheet**.

With only 12 months left to the conclusion of the Global Trust Fund (GTF), the main funding partners have advised that it is essential to accelerate and scale up technical assistance (TA) activities in order to achieve one of the Global Strategy's most important objectives: the adoption, at country level, of cost-effective methods for the production of agricultural and rural statistics.

Therefore, the focus of the 2017 workplan is on the delivery of technical assistance and training activities which support this objective. In countries where the Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS) is almost finalized, this process will be completed. For other countries, the focus will be on preparing a Country Proposal Paper and implementing as many of the identified technical assistance activities as feasible, particularly those involving the implementation of cost-effective methods. Annex 2 provides an indicative list of technical assistance activities derived from existing information. The Regional Steering Committee endorsed this document at its meeting on 17 November 2016, but asked that the list of technical assistance activities be modified based on information obtained from countries at a workshop on 16 November, at which countries provided their priorities for technical assistance on new methodologies. Modification of technical assistance activities will be made accounting for the budget, which will not change.

As explained below, some of the activities already initiated in 2016 have not been completed. The unused associated costs will be carried forward to 2017. The exact value of the funds carried forward from 2016 will be provided during 2017, as this information is only available upon yearly financial closure. In order to provide the GSC with some indications on this value, the estimated costs carried forward are only presented at total level.

WORKPLAN 2017

Regional Office Activities

1.1 Establishment of the Regional Office

The Regional Coordinator resigned in November 2016 and the position will be advertised shortly. In the interim, an additional statistician has been recruited on a short-term basis. At its 3rd meeting in November 2014, the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) recommended hiring an additional international consultant on a long term basis. The consultant would provide technical assistance to the assigned countries and would undertake other normative and regular functions of the Regional Office. This position was finally able to be filled in June 2016. This has helped considerably with progressing in-country technical assistance. In addition to this position, short-term consultants continue to be used. Since 2015 a consultant has been hired on a short term basis to assist with communication and advocacy issues. It is planned to continue the consultancy into 2017.

1.2 Coordination

This activity is mainly devoted to ensuring the coordination of the Global Strategy's implementation among partner agencies at regional level. To achieve this goal the following activities will be undertaken in 2017:

- Regional Office staff will attend all relevant meetings within the scope of the Global Strategy, particularly meetings organized by ESCAP. Regional office staff may also participate in important regional meetings to advocate the Global Strategy and to build synergies with the work of other development partners not directly involved in the Global Strategy. Participation in these meetings will enable the RO to report on the progress of the Global Strategy, share the main achievements and explore other areas of collaboration. It will also facilitate resource mobilization.
- The training component of the GS in the region is implemented by the Statistical Institute for Asia Pacific (SIAP), while the Asian Development Bank (ADB) is actively collaborating. It is noted that ADB is not receiving funds from the Global Trust Fund, hence it is collaborating with its own resources. In order to improve communication and enhance open discussion and collaboration between the regional partners and at regional level, there is regular contact among the implementing partners and regional coordination meetings are held periodically. These will continue in 2017.
- Regional office staff will participate in coordination meetings organized by the Global Office. It is expected that two such meetings will be organized in 2017
- Technical officers in the RO coordination role will be prominent during the interventions at country level. A key area is that of using the SPARS development process to establish, promote and support ongoing organisation structures such as relevant Steering Committees and Technical Working Groups which encourage coordination between agencies within a country. Officers will also coordinate among partners in order to ensure the best result for each country and avoid duplication.

1.3 Governance arrangements

The Regional Office, acting as the secretariat of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) will organize two RSC meetings during 2017. These are normally held in March and November to coincide with reporting requirements. Unless there are several issues for approval, a one-day meeting is sufficient. In addition, the first RSC meeting in 2013 established procedures to enable out of session decisions, when necessary.

Under the governance arrangements set in place for the Global Strategy, the RO is required to prepare and present a set of reports each year. These reports are prepared in conjunction with implementing partners. Those reports required during 2017 are:

- 2016 Activity Report for endorsement by the RSC and then approval by the GSC
- 2016 Certified Financial Report for approval by the GSC
- 2017 mid-year activity report for approval by the GSC
- 2017 mid-year financial report for consideration by the GSC
- Progress reports to each RSC meeting

Since 2017 is the final year of the project, it is also expected that a final report on the Global Strategy project in Asia Pacific will need to be prepared. Details are yet to be provided.

1.4 Communication, advocacy

This activity will be mainly devoted to increase the promotion and visibility of the Global Strategy at regional level and support the Resource Mobilization efforts:

- A regional communication plan was finalised in 2015 and was reviewed in late 2016. During 2017, the regional office will continue with implementation of this plan. Promotional materials, using the newly established visual identity, will be developed.
- Resource mobilization efforts, both at regional and country level, will be continued in 2017. These activities will be mainly oriented to assist with implementation of SPARS plans and other technical assistance activities. The advocacy activities will be focused on the identified technical assistance needs.
- Officers in the Regional Office will establish new contacts and consolidate relations with donors in the countries while on missions to provide technical assistance.

1.5 Monitoring and Evaluation

The M&E framework was revised in 2015 following a review by consultants. The framework is now consistent across regions and between regions and the global office. Reporting against this framework is done twice-yearly.

Technical Assistance

By the end of 2016, the in-depth country assessment process had started in sixteen of the nineteen participating countries. In fifteen of those countries an In-depth Country Assessment (IdCA) report has been completed, while it has been drafted in one other country. A Country Proposal Paper (CPP) had been produced in fourteen countries, with technical assistance in progress in eight countries to address identified needs. In terms of the development of a Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS), a Roadmap had been completed in fifteen countries, while the SPARS document had been completed in nine countries. Details of the status of activities in each country are provided in Annex 1.

During 2017 a range of technical assistance will be provided to countries in the region.

2.1 Finalisation of the in-depth country assessment process in participating countries

In the first half of 2017, it is expected that the in-depth country assessment process will be completed, including an endorsed IdCA report, in sixteen of the nineteen participating countries.

2.2 Specific technical assistance activities based on Country Proposal Papers

Country Proposal Papers (CPPs) have been produced and endorsed by the national government in eight countries, with a further eight countries expected to endorse CPPs progressively through the first half of 2017. The CPP lists a range of short-medium term activities needed to make improvements to the availability and quality of agricultural and rural statistics. Specific technical assistance and training to address these activities has started in eight countries and is expected to start in six further countries in the first quarter of 2017. By the third quarter, sixteen countries should benefit from such technical assistance and training activities. Details of the technical assistance activities planned for 2017 by country are given in Annex 2. Priority will be given to the appropriate introduction of the new cost-effective methodologies developed within the framework of the Global Strategy:

- 1 Use of Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) tools for effective data collection,
- 2 Building master sampling frame for agricultural sample surveys such as AGRIS,
- 3 Measuring cost of production,
- 4 Measuring post-harvest losses,
- 5 Livestock and nomadic livestock,
- 6 Compiling Food Balance Sheets,
- 7 Improving the quality of administrative data.

2.3 Finalisation of Strategic Plans for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS)

SPARS documents have been completed in nine countries, and well advanced in another four, as well as a joint SPARS for small Pacific Island Countries as a group. With help from the Technical Assistance component, these drafts are expected to be completed and endorsed during quarters 1 and 2. In line with donor priorities, SPARS development in the other three participating countries will be deferred.

2.4 Implementation of Strategic Plans for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS)

As part of the implementation of SPARS it is proposed to undertake technical assistance to support priority activities identified in those SPARS documents endorsed by end of 2016 and early 2017. Assistance is expected to be provided to all countries where a SPARS has been endorsed. Implementation will focus on the appropriate introduction of the new cost-effective methodologies developed within the framework of the Global Strategy.

2.5 Start of the in-depth country assessment process in additional countries

Given the need to focus on delivery of technical assistance to countries in 2017, it is not intended to introduce new countries in 2017. Nor is it intended to start activities in countries which were selected for 2016, but not yet started (China, Malaysia and Tonga). The option of those countries undertaking the process themselves using Global Strategy tools and with limited backstopping support will be considered. Thus, the Global Strategy in Asia Pacific will have targeted 16 countries. In addition a long-term strategy will have been developed for small Pacific Island Countries.

2.6 Transfer of know-how to implementing partners

The Global Office Research Component plans to provide training materials for a series of regional workshops to ensure an appropriate transfer of know-how when technical reports and guidelines are disseminated. Regional Office staff will participate in these workshops, and coordinate with SIAP in the organization of these workshops.

Training activities

SIAP will continue to work with partners of RAP in the region and beyond to deliver various training programs in 2017. The training programmes will focus on increased ability of NSS to use ICT to compile agricultural and rural statistics, integration of agricultural statistics in the NSS and improved competencies of NSS to compile the core data items through use of research outputs of the global office. Other focal areas will include strengthening the capacity of training institutions and coordination of training through the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in the Region, SDG indicators, use of agricultural statistics in policy formulation and advocating for agricultural and rural statistics.

Main training activities will consist of: regional and country-level training courses/workshops for priority countries with the following objectives:

- In coordination with the series of regional workshops (10-12 scheduled in 2017) by the Global Office Research Component to ensure an appropriate transfer of know-how when technical reports and guidelines are disseminated, follow-on training-of-trainers regional courses will be conducted. Topics include: master sampling frame, cost of production, CAPI, AGRIS toolkit, improving quality and use of administrative data; fisheries and aquaculture census framework; food balance sheets; estimating post-harvest losses; estimating production of mixed, repeated and continuous crops; estimating livestock and livestock products
- Continue to strengthen basic statistical skills of statistical staff in agriculture by working with national training institutes and universities in providing training-of-trainers courses in countries
- Introduce the SDGs and indicators relating to core data sets for agricultural and rural statistics
- Application of IT tools on micro-data to compile SDG indicators
- Support the outcomes of the SPARS and IdCA through targeted training for countries to complement the technical assistance component
- Continue to strengthen technical capacity to use data for policy analysis for food security and sustainable agriculture
- Continue to strengthen technical capacity for communication and advocacy, statistical literacy including use of data visualization tools and archiving, big data and dissemination

The training activities will also continue to strengthen training institutions through:

- Making available training resources (training needs assessment tools, curricula and syllabuses, training materials) and providing assistance, including dedicated training-of-trainers courses to national and regional training institutions to utilize the tools
- Instituting a certification programme for trainers
- Facilitating training coordination and collaboration through meetings of the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in the Region and subgroups of its experts
- Development of a database of learning resources and experts in all core areas of the Global Strategy

Annex 1

Annual Workplan for Asia Pacific in 2017

STATUS OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES BY COUNTRY as at November 2016

Technical Assistance Activities since November 2015

This document summarizes Technical Assistance activities of the Regional Office since the fifth meeting [of the RSC](#) in November 2015. In that meeting, RSC was presented with country specific progress on implementation of GS activities, the activities planned for 2016 and the approved country proposal activities being implemented in the selected countries.

Year-wise list of Asia Pacific countries selected for Global Strategy implementation is given below.

- 2013 - Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Samoa, Sri Lanka,
- 2014 - Fiji, Georgia, Lao PDR, Myanmar,
- 2015 - Afghanistan, Cambodia, Maldives, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, and Viet Nam
- 2016 - China, Malaysia, Mongolia and Tonga.

Besides these countries, work on development of a Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics (P-SPAFS) for the small Pacific Island Countries is in progress which will become the basis for all technical assistance and training activities in the Pacific countries.

Approach to Implement Global Strategy

Global Strategy implementation process has undergone changes depending upon the countries and donor priorities. In 2013-14 the focus was on undertaking and preparing an In-depth Country Assessment Report in each of the selected countries followed by a country proposal paper to provide short term technical assistance in the identified priority areas. Preparation of SPARS was to be determined later depending upon country priorities. In 2015, preparation of SPARS was made an integral part of GS implementation in the selected countries and the process started with the launching phase of SPARS as per [Global Office SPARS guidelines](#). In 2017 the terminal year of the Global Strategy, it is proposed to focus on providing technical assistance to countries in adoption of cost effective statistical methods developed by the Global Strategy research component.

Progress till date

As on 1 November 2016, the implementation of the Regional Action Plan (RAP) is in progress in 16 countries (except China, Malaysia and Tonga) including 15 countries selected during 2013-15 and one 2016 country (Mongolia). An overview of progress is presented in the [Figure 1](#). During the year, the RO made significant progress both in terms of SPARS preparation as well as in implementing approved short term project activities. In all, SPARS roadmaps and IdCA Reports are complete in 15 countries, Country Proposal Papers prepared in 14 countries, and SPARS documents prepared in 9 countries. Country-wise progress is detailed below.

1. *Bangladesh.*

Implementation of the Global Strategy in Bangladesh was initiated in 2012 under the project “MTF/GLO/372/BMG: Strengthening Agricultural Statistics in Anchor Countries – Phase I: Assessment of Anchor Country Agricultural Statistics” supported by the Bill and Melinda Gates foundation. The project produced two outputs viz. pilot testing of the country assessment methodology and the publication of the [In-depth Country Assessment Report](#) and ended in June 2014 with a [dissemination and advocacy workshop](#) highlighting the results of the in-depth assessment.

Subsequent implementation of GS activities in the country was undertaken with the GS funds. As of November 2016, Bangladesh has produced another three key reports including

- i. a Country Proposal Paper for improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics,
- ii. a Roadmap for SPARS development and
- iii. Draft SPARS document.

The SPARS document is under review by the Government and is expected to be endorsed by Dec 2016.

2. *Bhutan.*

Implementation of the Global Strategy in Bhutan started in November 2013. Since then, Bhutan had completed all the four outputs namely,

- i. In-depth Country Assessment of the National System for Renewable Natural Resources Statistics in Bhutan,
- ii. Country Proposal for improving Renewable Natural Resources Statistics in Bhutan,
- iii. a Roadmap for the SP-RNRS and
- iv. Draft SP-RNRS.

The documents (i) - (iii) have already been endorsed by the Government. SP-RNRS document is under consideration of the Government for endorsement. The Government has also constituted an RNR Statistics Committee as a permanent body to guide the implementation of SP-RNRS.

In addition, two country proposal activities are being implemented through GS funds namely; 1) Bringing Improvement in livestock statistics and 2) Improvement in crop statistics. On first activity ‘Bringing Improvement in livestock statistics’ a pilot survey was completed in a selected district and a report produced. Based on the encouraging results, the country has requested to implement it in 3 more districts on a pilot basis before implementing it at country-wide level. On second activity, an initial mission to develop a sampling design and prepare a manual of instructions for crop surveys was completed and a report is expected soon.

3. *Indonesia.*

Implementation of the Global Strategy in Indonesia started in December 2013. In-depth assessment of the national agricultural statistical system led to identification of major areas for improvement and 'Preparation of SPARS' was approved by RSC for implementation. To date, technical assistance activities in the country have produced four key reports:

- i. In-depth Assessment of Country Capacity to produce Agricultural and Rural Statistics,
- ii. Country Proposal for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics,
- iii. a Roadmap for Preparing the Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics and
- iv. Draft SPARS document.

The IdCA Report has been endorsed by the Government and most of the country proposal activities have been progressed by the government. BPS Statistics Indonesia is also involved in a World Bank project to modernize the statistics system. This project includes a case study on Horticulture and Estate Crops which may influence the direction of some SPARS proposals. Therefore the government is waiting on results from the case study before it can endorse the SPARS document. It is hoped that the SPARS will be endorsed by end 2016/early 2017.

4. *Samoa.*

Implementation of the Global Strategy in Samoa started in December 2013 in collaboration the Samoa Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Agriculture. Technical assistance activities in Samoa have produced four key reports as below:

- i. In-depth Country Assessment of the National System of Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Samoa, and
- ii. Country Proposal for Short-term Technical Assistance and Training.
- iii. a Roadmap for preparing the Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics
- iv. SPARS document (incorporated in the Agriculture Development Plan)

The country proposal paper identified 6 short term activities in 3 major areas for the improvement of agricultural and rural statistics in the country as below:

- Improving the availability and regularity of agricultural production statistics
Project 1a. Support of project planning for the 2015 Agricultural Survey
Project 1b. Questionnaire for agricultural survey developed
Project 1c. Sample selection methodology for agriculture survey developed and adopted
- Developing an effective data collection operation for agricultural statistics
Project 2a. Evaluation of agriculture module tool for other national surveys
Project 2b. Develop the agriculture module survey tool
- Building capacity in agricultural statistics

Project 3. Improve the capacity of SBS and MAF in agricultural statistics and survey activities

While most of these project activities have been or are being implemented through a traditional FAO TCP project, Project 3 is being progressed using Global Strategy funds to support the establishment of an Agricultural Statistics Unit in MAF.

5. *Sri Lanka*

Implementation of the Global Strategy in Sri Lanka started in December 2013 in collaboration with the Department of Census and Statistics and the Ministry of Agriculture. In-depth assessment of the national agricultural statistical system was completed and major areas for improvement were identified in the country proposal paper. To date, Sri Lanka have produced following key reports:

- i. In-depth Country Assessment Report
- ii. the Country Proposal Paper for Short-term technical assistance and training
- iii. SPARS Roadmap
- iv. Draft SPARS document
- v. Draft Technical Report on new methodology for Highland crops
- vi. Draft Technical Report on new methodology for estimating Rice production

As per country request, implementation of CPP activities was initiated first and SPARS preparation was taken up in 2016. Draft SPARS document was completed during the year and is under review by the Department of Census and Statistics for Government endorsement by Dec 2016.

Work on implementation of following two approved project activities remained in progress

- 1) Improving methodology for rice crop cutting surveys and
- 2) Improving methodology for highland crops were taken up for implementation.

Improved methodologies both for rice and highland crops estimation were developed and are being pilot tested in selected districts. As the pilot study on rice experienced problems in use of existing GPS devices, the country requested for new GPS instruments for recording area under rice at field level. 25 GPS instruments were procured and supplied and will be used in Maha season (Nov 2016 – March 2017). The results will be processed in April /May 2017. Results of the pilot surveys will form the basis to recommend improved methodologies for these crops.

6. *Fiji*

Implementation of the Global Strategy in Fiji started in May 2014 in collaboration with the Fiji Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Agriculture. In-depth capacity assessment of the national agricultural statistics system was completed and major areas identified for improvement. To date, technical assistance activities in the country have produced four key reports as below:

- i. In-depth Assessment of Country Capacity to produce Agricultural and Rural Statistics,
- ii. Country Proposal for Short-term Technical Assistance and Training
- iii. A Roadmap for the Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics, and
- iv. Draft SPARS document.

The IdCA report and country proposal paper have been endorsed by government. SPARS document is expected to be finalized and endorsed in 2017.

In the country proposal paper, six priority streams of work where technical assistance and training would be most beneficial to the Ministry of Agriculture (MOA) and Ministry of Fisheries and Forests (MFF), were identified. These include:

- i. Assessment of the 2015 Agriculture Baseline Survey coverage outcomes;
- ii. Supporting and improving administrative data collection activities;
 - (1) evaluate current methodologies
 - (2) analyse available crop yield data
- iii. Improving the availability and regularity of agriculture production statistics;
 - (1) Support for development of 2016 Agriculture Survey
 - (2) Development of an Agriculture Module for the 2017 Population and Housing Census
- iv. Adoption of mobile technologies for MOA and MFF data collections.

Activity i) is being implemented with support from SPC. Activities ii) and iv) are being implemented with support from an FAO TCP. Activity iii) (1) is no longer needed since the Baseline Survey is continuing, while activity iii) (2) is supported through GS funds.

7. Georgia

Implementation of the Global Strategy in Georgia commenced in June 2015. In-depth capacity assessment of the national agricultural statistics system was completed, major areas identified for improvement and strategic plan was prepared. To date, four key reports as below have been produced:

- i. Report of the In-depth Country Assessment,
- ii. A Country Proposal Paper for short to medium term improvement activities,
- iii. A Roadmap for the Strategic Plan for Agricultural, Environment and Rural Statistics (SPAERS)
- iv. A Strategic Plan for Agricultural, Environment and Rural Statistics (SPAERS) document.

All the documents have been endorsed by the Government. The country proposal paper has identified a number of short term project activities for the improvement of agricultural and rural statistics in the country as below:

- i. Improve coverage of agricultural surveys
- ii. Developing methodologies for yield surveys
- iii. Documenting and archiving micro-data
- iv. Geo-referencing agricultural statistics
- v. Data needs for rural development

vi. Training and capacity building

Implementation of new cost effective methods will be taken up for implementation in the country in 2017.

8. *Lao PDR*

Implementation of the Global Strategy in Lao PDR started in February 2014. To date, the country has produced four key reports:

- i. Report of In-depth Country Assessment in Lao PDR,
- ii. A Country Proposal for short-term technical assistance and training,
- iii. a Roadmap for the Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Lao PDR and
- iv. SPARS document.

All the documents have been endorsed by the Government. In addition, implementation of one of the country proposal activities ‘Improving the administrative reporting system for agricultural statistics’ is also in progress. A draft technical report on the improved administrative system for Lao PDR has been prepared and will be pilot tested in selected districts during 2017.

9. *Myanmar*

Implementation of the Global Strategy in Myanmar was initiated in May 2015 in collaboration with the Department of Agricultural Land Management and Statistics (DALMS) and the Central Statistics Organization (CSO). In-depth capacity assessment of the national agricultural statistics system was completed, major areas identified for improvement and a Strategic Plan prepared. To date, the country has produced four reports as below:

- i. Report of In-depth Country Assessment ,
- ii. Roadmap for preparing the Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics and
- v. A Country Proposal for short-term technical assistance and training,
- iii. A SPARS document.

Myanmar also provided the opportunity to prepare SPARS as a component of NSDS. With assistance from the World Bank and other Development Partners (DPs), the CSO prepared its First Myanmar National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS) through a cluster group approach, constituting of six Cluster Groups for specific statistical domains, agriculture being one of them. FAO took the lead to support the Cluster Group on Agricultural and Rural Statistics (ARSCG) and prepared SPARS as a component of NSDS. SPARS document is submitted to the Government for endorsement which is expected to be completed by Dec 2016.

Draft country proposal for Myanmar has identified following activities for short term implementation.

1. Improvement of Crop Data
2. Improvement in Crop Cutting methodology (Plot size and no. of cuts)
3. Integrated Sample Survey of Livestock products
4. Compiling Food Balance Sheet
5. Compendium of concepts and Definitions
6. Improving the marine small scale sector statistics

Implementation of new cost effective methods will be taken up in 2017.

10. Afghanistan

Implementation of the Global Strategy in Afghanistan started in August 2015. To date, country has produced following reports:

- i. Roadmap for the Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics and
- ii. An In-depth Country Assessment Report
- iii. A draft Country Proposal for short-term technical assistance and training
- iv. Broad Outline of SPARS document.

The IdCA report and the country proposal paper are expected to be endorsed by the Government this year and the SPARS in 2017.

On request of Ministry of Agriculture, Irrigation and Livestock (MAIL), improving crop statistics and wheat production forecast in particular were identified as an immediate priority area for improvement. Considering the security situation in the country and its impact on data collection and quality, the Ministry expressed interest in use of Remote sensing technology for wheat production forecast. To meet this requirement, GS facilitated the organization of a study tour of MAIL professionals to National Crop Forecast Centre in India in October 2015. The study was financially supported by FAO Afghanistan. The training was the initial step in the development of remote sensing methodology for wheat forecast in Afghanistan.

In addition to the above training activity, draft country proposal for Afghanistan has identified following activities for short term implementation

- i. Improved sampling methodology for agricultural and livestock surveys combining digital land cover information and GIS based EB maps
- ii. Pilot agricultural and livestock census
- iii. Developing a System for Collection of market prices and market information
- iv. Developing Cost of cultivation studies for wheat and other main cereal crops

Implementation of new cost effective methods in the country will be taken up for implementation in the country in 2017.

11. Cambodia.

Implementation of the Global Strategy in the country started in July 2015. To date, the technical assistance activities in Cambodia have produced three draft reports:

- i. First draft of the Report of In-depth Country Assessment
- ii. A draft Roadmap for the Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics.
- iii. A draft Country Proposal for short-term technical assistance and training

Given the focus on implementing new cost effective methodologies in 2017, preparation of SPARS for the country is deferred. Draft country proposal activities planned for the country include

- i. Improving the Methodology for Rice Crop Cutting Surveys
- ii. Improving the Methodology for Crop Forecasting
- iii. Improving methodology of yield estimation of subsidiary and industrial crops
- iv. Improving cost of production statistics for Rice
- v. Assessing data needs of national accounts
- vi. Improving data quality of the Food Balance Sheet

12. Maldives.

The Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture is the focal organization for implementation of the Global Strategy in the Maldives. Global Strategy implementation in the country commenced in September 2015 with an initiation workshop. Keeping in view the importance of fisheries sector to the country, a fishery statistician was also deputed to assist with the in-depth assessment of the country's agricultural statistical system. To date, country has produced following reports;

- i. A Roadmap for the Strategic Plan for Fisheries and Agricultural Statistics
- ii. An In-depth Country Assessment Report
- iii. A draft Country Proposal for short-term technical assistance and training
- iv. Broad Outline of Strategic Plan for Fisheries and Agricultural Statistics document.

Draft country proposal activities planned for the country include

- i. Development of a Master Sample frame for Agricultural Statistics, reviewing and using population census and MoFA farm register as the basis
- ii. Developing country capacity in the design and development of an agricultural survey and associated collection strategies, including the adoption of CAPI and mobile technologies
- iii. Capacity building to undertake analysis of fisheries catch data and produce analytical reports
- iv. Reviewing the Malé Market produce data collected over several years, assessing production trends and recommending collection improvements including possible adoption of CAPI.

Implementation of new cost effective methods in the country will be taken up for implementation in the country in 2017.

13. Pakistan

Global Strategy implementation in the country commenced in Nov 2015. The Ministry of National Food Security and Research is the focal organization for implementation of the Global Strategy in Pakistan. To date, the country has produced following documents.

- i. A Roadmap for the Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics
- ii. An In-depth Country Assessment Report
- iii. A draft Country Proposal for short-term technical assistance and training
- iv. Broad Outline of SPARS document.

Draft country proposal activities planned for the country includes the following activities

- i. Improving the national accounts for the agricultural sector
- ii. Developing an integrated system of agricultural and livestock statistics
- iii. Building capacity in agricultural statistics
- iv. Improving fisheries statistics
- v. Improving commodity balance sheet/ preparing food balance sheets
- vi. Developing Agro-Environmental Statistics
- vii. Rationalizing agricultural price statistics

Implementation of new cost effective methods in the country will be taken up for implementation in the country in 2017.

14. Papua New Guinea

Implementation of the Global Strategy in Papua New Guinea started in September 2015. To date, the country has produced following reports:

- i. A Roadmap for the Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics.
- ii. Draft In-depth Country Assessment Report
- iii. A draft Country Proposal for short term technical assistance and training;

Given the focus on implementing new cost effective methodologies in 2017, preparation of SPARS for the country is not proposed. Draft country proposal activities planned for the country include the following activities;

- i. Technical support for processing and analysis of data collected from Demographic and Health Survey 2016
 - a) relating to Crops-production, area and livestock products
 - b) on Food Insecurity Expectation Scale
- ii. Pilot Sample Survey to estimate production of agriculture commodities and livestock products using the frame of Population Census
- iii. Technical assistance for preparation of framework for conduct of Agricultural Census
- iv. Improvement in data collection, compilation, processing, release and analysis of data on harvesting of various types of marine fish and aquaculture
- v. Improvement in data collection, database management and analysis of production of vegetables, fruits, spices, nuts
- vi. Cost of Production studies for Coffee, Oil Palm, Cocoa, Coconut and Rubber by the concerned corporations/ Boards
- vii. Agriculture commodity price information collection system

Implementation of new cost effective methods in the country will be taken up for implementation in the country in 2017.

15. Viet Nam

Implementation of the Global Strategy in the country started in July 2015. The General Statistics Office (GSO) is the focal organization for implementation of the Global Strategy in the country. To date, technical assistance activities in Viet Nam have produced following reports:

- i. A Roadmap for the Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics
- ii. An In-depth Country Assessment Report
- iii. A draft Country Proposal for short-term technical assistance and training
- iv. Broad Outline of Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics document.

Draft country proposal paper planned for the country includes the following activity;

- i) Developing a Master Sample Frame and integrated Survey Framework for agricultural statistics
- ii) Analysis and Dissemination of Agricultural Census 2016 Data

Implementation of new cost effective methods in the country will be taken up in 2017.

16. Mongolia

Global Strategy implementation in the country commenced in Oct 2016 with an initiation workshop. In-depth capacity assessment of the national agricultural statistics system was undertaken and draft IdCA report is under preparation.

Given the focus on implementing new cost effective methodologies in 2017, preparation of SPARS for the country is not proposed.

17. *Development of a Sub-Regional Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics in the Pacific.*

In November 2014, the RSC endorsed a proposal by the RO to develop a sub-regional Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics for small pacific island countries. The need for separate SPARS for Pacific Island Countries was felt due to their special situation with reference to their cropping patterns, limited statistical infrastructure and availability of human and financial resources in the production of agricultural and rural statistics.

The planning for this sub-regional plan has received support from the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC), a major regional stakeholder for statistics capacity building, now working closely with the RO to help build capacity in the region. SPC and the FAO organized a sub-regional workshop in October 2015 with the objective to seek endorsement from Pacific Island countries to develop a regional strategy for agriculture and fisheries statistics, and to constitute a technical working group for the drafting of such a strategy.

In the workshop, participants (1) were informed of the benefits of improved statistical data, (2) were provided support from the RO on the filling of the Country Assessment

Questionnaire, (3) endorsed the initiative of FAO and SPC to develop a *Pacific Strategic Plan for Agriculture and Fisheries Statistics (P-SPAFS)*, and (4) constituted a technical working group to take forward actions planned for the drafting and implementation of the proposed *Strategy*.

The Technical Working Group met in April 2016 to discuss a Zero draft P-SPAFS, and members are currently reviewing a second draft.

Technical Assistance Activities planned for 2017

The country-wise targets are highlighted in Orange color in the Annex 1. Broad technical assistance activities during 2017 will be as under:

Continuation of SPARS development in 4 countries (Pakistan, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Maldives)

Preparation of country SPARS is one of the most important contributions in the implementation of Global Strategy at the country level. By the end of the project, SPARS will be ready for implementation in 13 countries (9 countries in 2016 and 4 countries (Pakistan, Vietnam, Afghanistan and Maldives) in 2017).

In 2016 countries, work has commenced in Mongolia where an IdCA Report will be prepared and new cost effective methods will be implemented in 2017. In remaining 2016 countries (China, Malaysia and Tonga), the countries will be encouraged to use Global strategy tools to undertake an assessment of their statistical systems and implement strategic plans and cost effective methods as appropriate to the country situation.

Implementation of approved country proposal activities and new cost effective methods developed under research component

Ongoing Country proposal activities currently under progress in the selected countries will be completed. In addition, implementation of the following cost effective methods developed under the Global Strategy will be taken up in relevant selected countries during 2017;

1. Use of Computer Assisted Personal Interview (CAPI) tools for effective data collection,
2. Building master sampling frame for agricultural sample surveys such as AGRIS,
3. Measuring cost of production,
4. Measuring post-harvest losses,
5. Livestock and nomadic livestock,
6. Compiling Food Balance Sheets,
7. Improving the quality of administrative data

Figure 1. Progress of Technical Assistance

	2013					2014				Afghanistan
	Bangladesh	Bhutan	Indonesia	Samoa	Sri Lanka	Fiji	Georgia	Lao PDR	Myanmar	
1. National Governance Mechanisms										
1a. National Strategic Coordinator appointed	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
1b. Identification and meeting of national stakeholders	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2. Roadmap to SPARS										
2a. Report Drafted	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
2b. Report Endorsed	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
3. In-Depth Country Assessment										
3a. Capacity Assessment Completed	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
3b. Report Drafted	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
3c. Report Endorsed	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	2016
4. Short term Country Proposals										
4a. Proposals Identified	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
4b. Proposals Endorsed by Government	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	2016	2016
4c. Selected proposals implemented	x	x	x	x	x	x	2017	x	2017	2017
5. SPARS Document										
5a. Outline of vision, mission, and objectives drafted	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
5b. SPARS document drafted	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	2016
5c. SPARS endorsed	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2017	x	x	2016	2017
6. New Cost Effective Methods Implemented	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017	2017
Colour scheme:										
Green: Task completed marked as (x)/To be completed this year marked as 2016										
Orange: Task to commence/ remain in Progress in 2017										
Grey: SPARS Not Proposed marked as NP										

Annex 2

Annual Workplan for Asia Pacific in 2017

SPECIFIC TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE ACTIVITIES BY COUNTRY

As part of the implementation of the Regional Action Plan (RAP) of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, countries produce a Country Proposal Paper. The Country Proposal paper documents short-medium term high priority activities needed to make improvements to agricultural and rural statistics systems. For each proposed activity a concept note is provided which describes the objectives, outputs, strategy and methodology, implementation arrangements, timing and budget. The In-depth Country Assessment document also provides information on other gaps and deficiencies in a country's agricultural and rural statistics.

Possible technical assistance activities for 2017 were reviewed in the context of the need to focus on implementation of cost-effective methodologies. All country proposals were considered along with other identified gaps and deficiencies. In addition, a workshop was also organized on 16 November 2016 to take into consideration priorities of countries on seven specific cost effective methods. Following that discussion, details of specific proposals for each country were reviewed.

The following proposals for technical assistance are based on that review. Note that for some proposals detailed concept notes and budgets have not yet been prepared. Therefore it may not be possible to complete all proposed activities in 2017. It is intended to undertake as many activities as possible, within the constraints of the total budget available and the availability of consultants.

BANGLADESH

The following activities are proposed for funding in 2017.

- i) Strengthening the agricultural crop estimation system, including crop forecasting and crop monitoring for important crops and promoting in the process, use of up front technologies of GIS and remote sensing.
- ii) Developing an integrated framework of census and surveys for agriculture and rural statistics covering crops, livestock, fisheries, inland water bodies and other such related areas.
- iii) Promoting ICT applications in agriculture and rural statistics including appropriate technology use, hardware and software resources, digitization of survey frames, data management, national data centre, data dissemination and user interface.

BHUTAN

The following activities are proposed for funding in 2017.

- i) Completion of planning for an Agriculture Integrated Survey system (AGRIS), which was started in 2016.
- ii) Pilot of the use of Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing for the quarterly crop survey

SAMOA

The following activity is proposed for funding in 2017.

- i) Pilot of the use of Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing for a Survey on Post Harvest Losses

SRI LANKA

The following activities are proposed for funding in 2017.

- i) Revisions to methodology of production of Food Balance Sheets
- ii) Continued implementation of ongoing pilot studies for rice and highland crops

FIJI

The following activity is proposed for funding in 2017.

- i) Pilot of the use of Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing for next Agriculture Census and possibly regular agriculture production surveys

GEORGIA

The following activity is proposed for funding in 2017.

- i) Pilot of the use of Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing for the survey of agricultural holdings

LAO PDR

The following activities are proposed for funding in 2017.

- i) Revisions to methodology of production of Food Balance Sheets
- ii) continued implementation of ongoing activity 'Improving Administrative Reporting System for Agricultural statistics'
- iii) Developing Cost of Production statistics for Rice.

MYANMAR

The following activities are proposed for funding in 2017.

- i) Production of Food Balance Sheets
- ii) Improvements to the methodology used for the collection of crop statistics
- iii) Pilot of an Integrated Sample Survey of Livestock products.

AFGHANISTAN

The following activities are proposed for funding in 2017.

- i) Improved sampling methodology for agricultural and livestock surveys combining digital land cover information and GIS based EB maps
- ii) Developing Cost of production studies for wheat and other main cereal crops.

CAMBODIA

The following activities are proposed for funding in 2017.

- i) Improving the Methodology for Rice Crop Cutting Surveys
- ii) Improving cost of production statistics for Rice.

MALDIVES

The following activities are proposed for funding in 2017.

- i) Development of a Master Sample frame for Agricultural Statistics, reviewing and using population census and MoFA farm register as the basis
- ii) Developing country capacity in the design and development of an agricultural survey and associated collection strategies, including the adoption of CAPI and mobile technologies.

PAKISTAN

The following activities are proposed for funding in 2017.

- i) Developing an integrated system of agricultural and livestock statistics
- ii) Improving commodity balance sheet / preparing food balance sheets.

PAPUA NEW GUINEA

The following activities are proposed for funding in 2017.

- i) Pilot study for estimation of crop-wise production and area through a Sample Survey of households using Population Census frame
- ii) Pilot study on improving data collection, processing and dissemination of production data generated in formal Agriculture sector through use of ICT (including CAPI).

VIETNAM

The following activities are proposed for funding in 2017.

- i) Developing a Master Sample Frame and integrated Survey Framework for agricultural statistics
- ii) Analysis and Dissemination of Agricultural Census 2016 Data

MONGOLIA

The following activities are proposed for funding in 2017.

- i) Review of the methodology used for estimation of production of dairy products, especially milk
- ii) Pilot study on use of CAPI to improve data collection during livestock censuses