



Annual consolidated narrative report

2016

# Annual consolidated progress report

Reporting Period: Jan-Dec 2016

Submission date: 28 April 2017

	Annual Budget	Annual Funds received
<b>Africa</b>	5,601,658 USD	1,000,569 USD
<b>Asia and the Pacific</b>	2,857,435 USD	1,071,991 USD
<b>CIS</b>	0	0
<b>Global Office</b>	7,506,568 USD	2,388,775
<b>Latin America and the Caribbean</b>	0	0
<b>Near East</b>	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>15,425,661 USD</b>	<b>4,461,335 USD</b>

Signature, Global Office Coordinator



## Executive summary

Throughout 2016, the Global Strategy (GS) made significant efforts to achieve its objectives both at global and regional levels. Furthermore, 2016 represented a pivotal year for the Global Strategy, as the coordination mechanisms for delivering Technical Assistance at country level were consolidated. More concretely, the objective of the new approach is as follows: i) to accelerate the delivery of Technical Assistance (TA) in target countries on a selected number of meaningful cost-effective methodologies and ii) to scale down support to the development of Strategic Plans for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS).

The programme received a no cost extension until December 2018 and has improved its strategic planning efforts, as most of the recommendations that emerged from the Mid-term evaluation (MTE) (June 2015 -November 2015), were taken into consideration for the planning of GS activities.

**The Global Office** (GO) has put forth significant efforts in strengthening the coordination mechanisms with regional implementing partners in order to ensure the proper uptake of the methods, guidelines and training materials produced by the GO. The delivery of cost-effective methodologies was accelerated by the completion of 13 research topics. In this regard, the GS completed 30 research topics as of December 2016, which was the target established by the logical framework. Furthermore, 12 expert meetings were organized, and 6 methodologies field tested throughout the year. The results of the efforts made under the research component were disseminated through 21 technical reports, guidelines and training materials in 2016.

**In Africa**, the SPARS process is ongoing in 14 countries (Burkina Faso, Congo Republic, Cote d'Ivoire, Chad, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Ghana, Niger, Rwanda, Zambia, Gambia, Guinea Bissau, Guinea Conakry and Togo) and in 2 others, which have requested and obtained a confirmation from the African Development Bank to proceed (Eq. Guinea and Lesotho). In 2016, TA activities on the newly developed cost-effective methods by AfDB were limited to: (i) in-country tailored support on Master Sampling Frame (MSF) to Rwanda, and (ii) two regional training workshops on Agricultural Cost of Production Statistics (AgCoP), one for French speaking countries (in Hamammet, Tunisia in March 2016) and another one for English speaking countries (Cairo, Egypt in April 2016).

With regard to the training component, a total of 12 training workshops were organized in 2016 by UNECA and a total of 276 participants representing 48 African countries took part in the training sessions, covering topics such as: Agricultural Census and Surveys, Agricultural Data Processing, Master Sampling Frame for Agricultural Surveys, and Integrated Survey Framework: Indirect Sampling for Agricultural Statistics and Master Sampling Frame. The main objectives of the training workshops were to provide the participants with the skills and competencies necessary for using the newly developed tools and techniques for the production of agricultural statistics.

**In Asia and the Pacific**, in-country activities were undertaken in 16 countries during 2016 under the responsibility of the FAO regional office in Bangkok. In fifteen countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Georgia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Maldives, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, Samoa, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam) both an In-depth country assessment (IdCA) report and a Country Proposal paper were prepared, and in most cases formally endorsed by the government. A SPARS document was drafted in eleven countries and an outline prepared in another two. Specific Technical Assistance activities identified in the Country Proposal papers commenced in five countries. An additional four countries (China, Mongolia, Malaysia and Tonga) were also selected for inclusion in 2016, and work has started in Mongolia so far. Work in China and Tonga has also commenced with remote assistance (e-mail) being provided by the FAO Regional Office to the respective National Strategy Coordinators for country assessments. In addition to these 19 countries, work on the development of a Pacific Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics (P-SPAFS) for the Pacific Island Countries was ongoing in 2016.

With regard to the training activities under the responsibility of UNESCAP-SIAP, a programme of regional training courses was designed, with sustainable capacity building as a goal. Training courses for training of trainers of national and regional statistical training institutions were delivered to ensure long-term capacity building. Training activities focused on the new cost-effective methodologies, particularly those related to the Use of Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) tools and Methods for the Measurement of Cost of Production. Through the establishment of the subgroup on agricultural and rural statistics under the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific, national statistical training institutions are being strengthened to serve as regional nodes for providing training in agricultural and rural statistics. Thanks to the provision of technical training to priority and non-priority countries, the statistical staff of data users and trainers are being strengthened.

# Consolidated report

## OUTPUT 1

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### Effective governing bodies set up and functioning at global level

#### 1.1 Governance meetings

Since January 2013, a total of 8 Global Steering Committee (GSC) meetings and 10 Regional Steering Committee meetings (4 in Africa and 6 in A&P) were organized.

**Global level** The 12th meeting of the GSC took place on the 23rd of February 2016 via teleconference. One of the key items of the meeting was the presentation of the key technical, financial, operational and organizational findings emerged from the midterm evaluation, including key recommendations and main conclusions. This was followed by the endorsement of the Global Office workplan for 2016, the allocation of funds for 2016 and the revision of the integrated budget and the logical framework. The meeting was concluded with the proposal to set up a task team for preparing the second implementation phase of the Global Strategy. In addition, the following decisions were taken through written consultation in 2016: i) in August 2016, a written consultation was organized to endorse the workplan in Africa 2016; ii) following the endorsement of the regional workplan for Africa, a written consultation was organized to endorse the allocation of funds for Africa in 2016; iii) at the end of 2016, the GSC endorsed the one year no cost extension of the programme until end of 2018. One virtual Global Executive Board meeting (7th GEB meeting) was organized in January 2016 for endorsing the regional annual workplan for Asia and the Pacific.

**Africa** Two Regional Steering Committee (RSTC) meetings have been organized virtually in July and December 2016, to review and approve in writing the 2016 and 2017 Workplans/Budgets, respectively. The delay in the approval of the African workplan was due to the significant changes made under the technical assistance (TA) component following a request from the donors. Through the new approach, the delivery of TA on cost-effective methods will be conducted through a joint effort between the African Development Bank (AfDB) and the Global Office delivered by the Regional Office (RO) and the TA activities on cost-effective methods will be increased while the support to the development of SPARS will be decreased.

**Asia and the Pacific** The sixth meeting of the RSC was held in November 2016. The main purpose of the meeting was the endorsement of the 2017 workplan and budget, to elect the RSC Chair and Deputy Chair following the rotation of new country members and to endorse the activity reports from regional office, technical assistance and training components, and related ADB activities.

## 1.2 Coordination

In order to foster the cooperation among regions, the Global Office organized one coordination meeting with all the regions and two regional coordination meetings with the regional implementing partners in Africa (one in Abidjan, in July and one in Rome in October 2016). The main purpose of these meetings were to discuss and synchronize the respective work plans for the purpose of better coordinating the implementation of Technical Assistance activities. The Global Office has systematically attended all Regional Steering Committee meetings in Asia and Africa. In 2016, coordination with other initiatives has also been pursued. Details are provided in **Annex 1**.

## 1.3 Staffing: Global and Regional Offices

**Global Office** The Global Office is fully staffed and features the following staff positions: Programme Coordinator (P5), Research Coordinator (P5); Technical Assistance and Training Coordinator (P4); Programme Officer (P2); Research Officer (P2) and Team Assistant (G4). The GO staff works in close collaboration with long-term consultants who support the management and implementation of the programme.

**Africa** AfDB has secured a dedicated regional core team of long-term consultants is kept on assignment, and avoid any possible interruption of the work, the contracts of three of them have been renewed in the course of 2016 and extended to cover a period of two years. They include: (i) a Lead Consultant, (ii) a Technical Assistance (TA) Expert, and (iii) a Monitoring and Evaluation expert. In addition, the contracts for 6 short-term consultants have been granted to continuing helping with the development and implementation of start-up activities of Strategic Plans for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS). UNECA has filled in both professional posts for the management for the training component. The P4 was filled in at the beginning of the year and the remaining second professional staff (P3) position as of 24 October 2016 to focus on providing further capacity for the project management, implementation, and monitoring of the training component

**Asia and the Pacific** The Regional Office (RO) is established and is functioning. In late 2014, the RSC agreed to the recruitment of an additional International Consultant on a long-term basis to assist with the heavy workload of in-country technical assistance work. This position was filled during 2016. The position of Regional Coordinator also recently became vacant in November 2016, and recruitment of the position is currently underway.

## 1.4 Regional Action Plans

During 2016, the Coordination efforts of the Global Office continued to support the preparation of regional conferences in the three regions that are still lacking funds (Latin America, Near East, CIS countries). Significant changes in the African regional action plan were also occurring due to decisions taken by the Global Steering Committee.

**Latin America and Caribbean (LAC)** – The Global Office supported the FAO Regional Office in Latin America and the Caribbean preparations and the draft documentation of the 1st Resources Mobilization meeting in the region which was supposed to be held in October 2016. The meeting was to be postponed in 2017 due to conflicts of dates with the international agenda.

**Near East** –The Global Office supported the FAO Regional Office in Cairo is taking the lead in organizing a Partnership Conference and Regional Steering Committee Meeting that was planned to be organized in February 2016. The conference was to be postponed due to the political situation in the region.

**Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)** –. The region has continued to benefit from the contribution by the World Bank on activities that contribute directly to the objectives of the Global Strategy.

**Africa** –The approach for implementing regional activities in Africa was modified in August 2016. The new approach aims to i) accelerate the delivery of Technical Assistance (TA) in target countries on a selected number of meaningful cost-effective methodologies and ii) scale down support to the development of Strategic Plans for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS). As a result, the Global Office is now contributing to TA activities and has become a new implementing partner in Africa. The coordination team for the delivery of the GO's TA plan for Africa was formed soon after the endorsement of the 2016 work plan. The management of the GO's TA plan became the responsibility of the Technical Assistance and Training Coordinator. Due to this dual role, this appointment will facilitate the alignment of TA activities with the other global and regional training and capacity-building activities. The Coordinator will continue to work in close collaboration with the Global Office.

### 1.5 Organization of technical meetings

**Global Office:** The progress on the implementation of the research activities were discussed during the 5th Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meeting organized in Rome in January 2016. In addition to the SAC meeting, 11 Expert Group Meetings<sup>1</sup> were organized on the following thematic areas: AGRIS (2 meetings), Gender, Fisheries, Livestock Production, Administrative data, Reconciliation of Census and Survey Data, Crops estimates, methods for estimating yields of root crops, agricultural productivity and efficiency, remote sensing and the Outreach seminar organised in the margins of ICAS meeting. As **Secretariat of the Inter-Agency Group on Agricultural and Rural statistics**, the Global Office organised the 2nd IAEG meeting in New York in March 2016 in the margins of the 47th UNSC. Three items were discussed with the members: i)concerning the research programme of the Global strategy, members recommended that the Global Office coordinates its research work on agricultural productivity with the OECD and the G20 and should provide suggestions on the guidelines that should be submitted to the UNSC for

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<sup>1</sup> The indicator number of expert meetings in the logical framework computes the SAC meetings as expert meetings.

endorsement; ii) on the topic “Improving the Measurement of Food Consumption in Household Consumption and Expenditure Surveys”, the IAEG agreed with the process for the finalization of the guidelines by the World Bank which should be submitted to the UNSC for endorsement in 2018; iii) on the topic “Improving Rural Statistics”, the Global Office introduced the concept note of this new research line. The IAEG supported the proposed research programme and suggested to involve UNHABITAT in this discussion as it is a key stakeholder in the development of an international definition of rural/urban areas.

**Africa:** To strengthen the coordination of the programme at both regional and national level, the regional office held a technical meeting bringing all international consultants together to discuss on status of activities and the work plan of activities to be implemented in 2016. This was a great opportunity to share best practices on how and agree on the best way to support countries. This meeting was held in Abidjan from 17th to 18th March, 2016. The status of internal monitoring and evaluation system was also shared. This gave the opportunity to identify potential risk of the programme and identified solutions to address them appropriately.

**Asia and the Pacific** The RO provided secretariat support for, and prepared a number of discussion and information papers for the RSC in November 2016, as well as a number of documents for out-of-session approval. In addition, the RO organized the three following regional meetings in 2016 (1) Regional Training Course on Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) for Agricultural Surveys and Price Reporting in October 2016, (2) an Orientation Programme for Implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in November 2016, and a (3) Workshop on Statistical Capacity of countries to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals related to Agricultural and Rural Statistics and Adoption of new cost-effective methods developed under the Global Strategy also in November 2016.

## 1.6 Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E)

**Global Office:** In 2016, the logical framework of the Global Strategy was revised in order to incorporate the new output 5 “Sustainable agricultural integrated surveys implemented in countries”, the following changes have been included in the monitoring framework of the Global Strategy. The revision of the monitoring framework was endorsed during the 12th GSC. Following the finding and recommendations emerged from the Mid-term evaluation (MTE) (June 2015 -November 2015), the implementing partners prepared a coordinated management response to the recommendations made by the evaluation team. The progress towards the evaluation and management response was presented during the 13th GSC meeting in February 2017

**Africa:** The annual meeting of the African Group on Statistical Training and Human Resources (AGROST) was held on 29 November 2016 in Dakar, Senegal. During this meeting, the accomplishments of the project and ongoing activities have been presented. The meeting has also provided areas of improvement and recommendations for further strengthening the implementation of the Training Component activities.



**Asia and the Pacific** The region has systematically monitored the implementation of the activities at regional level through the technical assistance activities. Furthermore, it has fulfilled the GS reporting requirements on timely basis.

### 1.7 Advocacy, Communication

**Global Office:** Following the roll out of the updated Communication Plan 2015-17, in 2016, the Global Office has continued implementing the communication activities as planned. One of the main ongoing activities is the Global Strategy e-Bulletin, which was issued every month to a mailing list of over 2,000 contacts in 2016. Throughout the year, the gsars.org website was updated regularly, providing information on Global Strategy activities, documents and the latest publications. A total of 22 documents and 1 e-learning course were published on the gsars website in 2016. These materials include guidelines and handbooks, technical reports and literature reviews and an e-learning training material course.

On the occasion of the ICAS VII meeting in October 2016, the first three brochures of the series of 8-page-brochures on research topics were produced: Agricultural Cost of Production Statistics, Strategic Plans for Agricultural Statistics (SPARS) and The Agricultural Integrated Survey (AGRIS). The objective of these brochures is to illustrate in a summarised manner complex topics that are presented in technical publications and guidelines. A roll up poster providing information on CAPI was also produced for the event.

Finally, in order to foster discussions on agricultural and rural statistics and keep stakeholders informed on events and latest publications, the Global Strategy has been actively posting news feeds on the FAO Statistics Twitter account using the hashtag #gsars, particularly during meetings and events.

In **Africa**, no progress has been reported.

The communication activities in **Asia and the Pacific** are mainly devoted to increase the promotion and visibility of the Global Strategy at regional level and support the Resource Mobilization efforts. During 2016, the regional office operationalized the regional communication plan. Promotional materials, using the newly established visual identity, were also developed and released. These included a regular newsletter informing a broader audience of ongoing activities throughout the region, and the development of country profile flyers highlighting the progress made in country level activities. A [website hosted by the FAO Regional Office](#) was also developed and maintained.

## OUTPUT 2

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

**Global Office:** In 2016, the Global Office started to update the guidelines on the SPARS based on the experience and good practices gained in several countries from the elaboration of Strategic Plans for Agricultural and Statistics (SPARS). The activities under the Comprehensive African Agriculture Development Program (CAADP) were delayed as result of the changes in the implementation of the CAADP framework and the redistribution of activities between the GO and the African Development Bank (AfDB). Discussions have started with Ghana for integrating a statistical component into the next National Investment Plans. Lessons learned from this experimentation will be used for preparing guidelines for helping countries to better integrate statistics into their national agricultural plans.

**Africa:** Following the lessons learned by carrying out the 2013 Country Assessment (CA) process, and in order to implement one of the RSTC recommendations, the second cycle of the CA (for the reference year 2015) was undertaken in 2016. To this end, several instruments were developed and fine-tuned: (i) A Light Country Assessment Questionnaire (LCAQ) was carried out by filtering out the questions needed for generating ASCI, and a user-friendly Excel Template was developed to easily capture and compile required data, which are automatically linked to the ASCI computation system that generates instantly ASCI results; a User Manual to provide assistance on the use of excel templates was also produced and both have been made available to countries in their official languages (English and French, respectively).

A regional workshop was organized in Uganda from 16 to 20 May 2016 to train the National Strategy Coordinators (NSCs) on the LCA process, including the use of LCA instruments. Country data were carefully reviewed and checked by the Regional Office. The 2015 ASCI results were validated and owned by countries, and a report on the full results analysis is being finalized to be widely disseminated.

In addition to establishing National Strategy Coordination units, countries with an ongoing Strategic Plans for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS) development process (See the list below) have been further supported, to set up National Coordination Committees (NCC) and Technical Working Groups (TWG) on Agricultural Statistics. The NCCs and TWGs include representatives of all sub-sectors of agriculture as a whole.

Country	Steps of the SPARS Process				Status as of 31 Dec 2016
	RoadMap	Launching	Assessment	Planning	
Cameroon					Done
Cote d'Ivoire					Done
Cabo Verde					Done
Burkina Faso					Waiting for CNS endorsement
Zambia					Being finalized
Ghana					Being finalized
Rwanda					On going
Niger					Assessment yet to start
Guinea Bissau					Launching yet to start
Chad					Launching yet to start
Congo					Launching yet to start
Guinea					Launching yet to start
Togo					Launching yet to start
Gambia					Launching yet to start
Ethiopia					Launching yet to start
Eq Guinea					Launching yet to start
Lesotho					Launching yet to start

**Asia-Pacific:** A slight change in the countries' implementation process was made in 2016 as opposed to the previous years. In 2013-15, focus was placed on the preparation of SPARS and its associated outputs of the IdCA and Country Proposal Paper. However, as of late 2016, the dissemination and implementation of the new cost-effective methodologies developed under the Global Strategy became an integral part of the GS implementation in the selected countries. A regional workshop was organized in November 2016 highlighting the new cost-effective methodologies. The provision of technical assistance to selected countries on the use of these methodologies is currently underway.

At the end of 2016, in fifteen countries (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Georgia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Maldives, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, Samoa, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam) both an IdCA report and a Country Proposal paper were prepared and in most cases formally endorsed by the government. A SPARS document was drafted in eleven countries and an outline prepared in another two. Specific Technical Assistance activities identified in the Country Proposal papers have started in five countries.

In addition to the progress made on SPARS through the organization of missions and workshops at country level, two advocacy workshops were held in 2016: the first one on communication and advocacy and the second one was an orientation workshop for countries that are newly implementing the GS. Coordination has improved in all sixteen countries where the IdCA process has started and most countries have decided to permanently adopt the coordination arrangements set up as part of the IdCA/SPARS process.

## **OUTPUT 3**

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### **New cost effective methods developed and disseminated**

In 2016, 13 research programs were completed and 22 technical reports and working papers were published. The overview of the progress of the activities in 2016, divided by research themes is presented below.

#### **FRAM 3 - Minimum Set of Core Data**

The revision will take into consideration emerging information needs, in particular the UNSC resolution on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The activities included in this line of research cover the development of a conceptual basis for the analysis of MSCD (selection criteria); the assessment of the actual MSCD against the criteria identified; and the development of a methodological proposal for the revision of the MSCD list, together with the corresponding metadata. The first draft of the conceptual basis for the analysis was developed in December 2016. It is expected that the final proposal for the revision of the MSCD will be submitted by the end of 2017 to the UNSC for endorsement

#### **SAMP 4 - Improved methodologies for master sampling frames: Integration of new methodologies, field tests and software packages**

Under the theme “Improved methodologies for master sampling frames”, the activities in 2016 have been mostly focused on the integration of new methodologies, field tests and software packages. Field tests on MSFs have been finalized in Nepal and are ongoing in Rwanda and Brazil. The ongoing field tests comprise desktop studies and data collection exercises. These will be finalized in early 2017. A technical report illustrating the main findings will be issued during the first quarter of 2017.

#### **COLL 1 - Improving methods for estimating cost of production**

On the research topic “Methods for estimating cost of production in developing countries, final guidelines were published in February 2016 (available in English, French and Spanish) and Country Field Test and Desk-Study Reports in June 2016 (Tunisia, Colombia, Philippines). Furthermore, the 8-page brochure on cost of production has also been published (in English, French and Spanish).

#### **COLL 2 - Improving methods for estimating post harvest losses**

A comprehensive methodological report on measurement methods for post-harvest losses was produced and published in 2015. In October 2016, the field-testing of a survey on farm-level post-harvest losses was launched in Ghana; the field work for this test ended in February 2017. The results of this field test, along with the findings of a desk study of survey data from Malawi, will feed into the preparation of guidelines on the measurement of post-harvest losses, which will be ready by the last quarter of 2017.

#### **COLL 3 - Adoption of new technology for field data capture, compilation**

During 2016, the majority of the activities under this research line were undertaken by the World Bank, particularly the improvement of the tool and the in-country adoption of Survey Solutions Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing software continued. Major new features were added a few which include: the functionality to develop and administer multi-language questionnaires with on-the-fly switching, lookup tables improving constituency checks,

substitution in error messages to help enumerators improve data quality, support community website, and several back-end server improvements scaling the software to census sized samples. In terms of country implementation, Survey Solutions has now been used in around 65 countries for more than 300 surveys.

#### **LIVE Improving methods for estimating livestock and livestock products**

This line of research began in January 2015 with the compilation of a literature review and the preparation of a gaps analysis and field test protocols. These documents were discussed in an expert meeting held in July 2015. The field tests performed in the three test countries (Botswana, Indonesia and United Republic of Tanzania) started at the end of 2015 and were finalized in Q1 2016. A draft methodological report was submitted and discussed during the validation meeting held in July 2016. A revised version of the methodological report and a final report consolidating the methodological issues on estimating livestock production and productivity were finalized in 2016. The methodological report will be published in early 2017.

#### **FOOD 1 - Improving methodology of food balance sheets**

A first draft of the literature review and gaps analysis on the topic was prepared in September 2016, submitted to a group of experts and discussed in a technical workshop in December 2016. The literature review has been finalized and published in February 2017. The publication of the final version of the guidelines is envisaged for the third trimester of 2017.

#### **FOOD 2 - Improving methodology of food consumption**

This line of research was commissioned to the World Bank's LSMS team. In 2016, additional methodological experiments took place in Viet Nam and Indonesia. The research part has now been finalized and a draft of the guidelines has been discussed in an expert meeting held in November 2016 in Rome.

#### **CROP 1 - Improving estimation of crop area, yield and production**

#### **CROP 2 - Estimations for mixed, repeated and continuous cropping**

Research activities under CROP1 and CROP2 were completed in 2016. More specifically, three technical reports were published, and field tests were concluded in Rwanda, Jamaica and Indonesia. The results of the field tests were analysed in a working paper, which was validated at an expert meeting in Rome and will be published. Furthermore, a final technical report on the proposed methodology for measuring crop area and yield under pure stand and mixed cropping, incorporating the results of the field test, has been produced and will be published in early 2017 following professional editing. As a final output, an abbreviated technical report focusing on mixed cropping has been produced, and will become a specialized chapter within the Guidelines on Measuring Crop Area and Yield to be published in 2017 under Output 4.

#### **CROP 3 - Methods for estimating yields of root crops**

This line of research was commissioned to the World Bank's LSMS team. The World Bank's LSMS team, in collaboration with the National Statistical Office of Malawi, has implemented an experiment to measure cassava area and production. The experiment was concluded in September 2016 and analysis of the results will be completed by the end of 2016. Two working papers will be produced and incorporated into the crop statistics methodology compendium.

#### **CROP 4 - Horticultural crops**

Research activities on this topic were concluded in 2016. A proposed methodology for measuring vegetable crops was developed and piloted with the Statistics Research and Information Directorate of Ghana's Ministry of Agriculture. The results of the pilot test were integrated into a final methodological report; this has been drafted and will be published in early 2017 following professional editing.

#### **REMO 2 - Cost-efficiency of Remote Sensing in developing countries**

In February 2016, the technical report "Improving methods for using existing land cover databases and classification methods" was published on the GS website

#### **REMO 3 - Improving methods for using existing land cover/use data bases**

The draft of the third technical report (The land information for Agricultural Statistics), has been developed with the inclusion of the field test results, that have been carried out in 2015 in Pakistan, Cambodia, and Sudan. The final technical report of this line of research was published in August 2016.

#### **REMO 4 – Remote sensing: Integration of methodologies**

Based on the findings of the three lines of research completed under REMO, a handbook for use by country statisticians has been drafted by a team of international experts, and an expert meeting organized for December 2016 in Rome. The final handbook will be published in early 2017.

#### **ADMI Improving quality/ use of admin. data to produce agricultural statistics**

The line of research on improving the quality and use of administrative data for agriculture statistics in developing countries, jointly implemented by Iowa State University (USA) and Makerere University (Uganda), is being completed. To date, the two institutions have produced seven technical reports on the quality and use of administrative data, and have developed a strategy and methodology for the use and improvement of administrative data in agricultural statistics. The field tests performed in Namibia and Côte d'Ivoire have been completed and their results published. The final guidelines have been provided on 31st January 2017 and is in editing process.

#### **FISH 1 Improving methodology for small-scale fisheries**

A first version of the "Guidelines to Enhance Fisheries and Aquaculture Statistics through a Census Framework" was published in 2015. Preliminary feedback on this draft was requested from national statistical contact points and experts worldwide, by means of an online survey questionnaire. Following the expert meeting held in January 2016, an improved version of the guidelines was developed and the title revised to "Guidelines to Enhance Small-scale Fisheries and Aquaculture Statistics through a Census Framework". The document benefited from additional improvements made during a regional workshop held in Jakarta on 7-8 March 2016. A peer review of this latest version has been performed, and an updated version of the guidelines has been published in Mid-February 2017.

#### **FISH 2 – Master Sampling Frame for fishery**

This research topic covers the specific case of MSFs for fishery and aquaculture. The final technical report will complement the "Handbook on Master Sampling Frames for Agricultural Statistics". The activities relating to this topic commenced in October 2016, with a consultant

developing a draft literature review. The final version of this document has been published in end February 2017. The methodological proposal and field test protocol will be discussed during an expert meeting to be held on 11-12 May 2017.

### **FORE 1 - Guidelines on Data collection of national forest products statistics**

The updating of the proposal for “Forest Products Classification and Definitions” was finalized in 2016. The new version proposes a complete classification of forest products that takes into account the recent changes occurring in: the relevant technology; the wood-based industry and trade; and the list of new wood and paper products. The classification serves as an international standard for reporting data on all kinds of wood-based products, corresponding with the most relevant and recent updates to international classifications. On regard the production of “The guidelines on wood-based forestry product statistics”, given the diversity of wood-based products and the complexity of developing and recommending statistical methods that cover all products in the wood-based forestry chain, the research must continue until the end of the third quarter of 2017.

### **FORE 2 - Methodology on incorporating a wood fuel module into existing national surveys/censuses**

The scarce availability of household-level statistics on woodfuel production and consumption makes it difficult to obtain a clear perspective of the impact of woodfuel production and consumption on local economies, livelihoods and environments. The line of research aims to fill this gap by developing a Woodfuel Supplementary Module (WSM) to be incorporated into existing surveys and thus gather reliable woodfuel data. During 2016, the project’s main achievements were: (i) finalization of the Literature Review on “National Statistics Related to Woodfuel Production and Consumption in Developing Countries, Survey-Based Woodfuel Studies, and International Recommendations on Woodfuel Surveys”; (ii) identification of potential surveys where the WSM could be incorporated, and review of the questions already included in existing surveys and censuses; and (iii) development of the core version of the WSM. Progress was also made in developing the methodological proposal on how to integrate the WSM into existing surveys, and in the preparation of a list of candidate countries where field tests can be implemented during 2017. The final version of the methodological guidelines, which will also include the results of the field tests, will be available by October 2017.

### **DATA 1 - Farms Typology**

This line of research started in the second half of 2015 with the compilation of a detailed literature review and an initial proposal for a general outline of the guidelines, focusing on the main dimensions and problems linked to international comparison. The development of the methodological proposal continued in 2016, with an analysis of the need for typologies within the SDG framework and other international initiatives, identifying the main building blocks of a farm typology, analysing different approaches to classify the agricultural holdings. The research work will continue into 2017 and the “Guidelines on the Typology of Agricultural Holding”, would be ready by the end of 2017.

### **DATA 2 - Reconciliation Census-Surveys data**

Activities, carried out under the responsibility of the FAO Regional Office for Africa, commenced in July 2015, with the preparation of a concept note and a literature review, which was published in May 2016. A desktop test on data relating to Burkina Faso was implemented from July to October 2016. The results of this test have been used to develop draft technical report and

guidelines in Mid-January 2017. These draft reports have been reviewed by the members of SAC during their Meeting on Feb. 27-28th 2017 and will be finalized by End April 2017.

### **DATA 3 - Determination of user needs for decision making**

In 2016, the development of Guidelines on the determination of user needs for decision making has started. The objective of this activity is to provide countries with good practices and recommendations to better engage the users of agricultural statistics in the design of agricultural statistics programmes. A literature review on the existing best practices was performed and an annotated outline was produced and reviewed. The content of the guidelines will be developed, reviewed and disseminated by the end of 2017.

### **SUST 1 - Indicators, collection methods for gender related data**

The first outputs generated under this line of research were a literature review titled "Data Gaps and Good Practices" and a working paper titled "Beyond ownership: Tracking progress on women's land rights in Sub-Saharan Africa". The findings of these reports will contribute to the final guidelines on "Mainstreaming sex-disaggregated data and gender indicators in agriculture" that were discussed in an expert meeting in June 2016, and will be finalized by March 2017. Field tests on some of the guidelines' recommendations, conducted in two countries, have been completed in October 2016. The results of the analysis will be presented in a field test report and will inform the finalization of the guidelines, which are expected to be finalized by May 2017

### **SUST2: Measuring Youth Employment and Decent Work in Agriculture**

In 2016, a concept note and a first technical report on measuring decent work and youth employment in agriculture were produced. It is expected that the "Guidelines for Measuring Decent Work and Youth Employment in Agriculture" will be published by the end of 2017.

### **SUST-3 Indicators and collection methods on agri-environment**

The research began in May 2016, with the finalization of the relative concept note. The focus is placed on the environmental pillar of sustainable development, and in particular on the interactions between the environment and agriculture, exploring the concept of "sustainable agriculture" with the goal of prioritizing existing statistical variables and indicators for the measurement and monitoring of the state of the environment as a consequence of agricultural development. The initial activities of this research also included an assessment of the needs relating to the improvement of existing methodologies, and initiatives to address the lack of methodologies for the production and establishment of agri-environmental indicators. The Literature Review and Gap Analysis will be available next April and the final output is expected to be ready by the end of 2017.

### **SUST4: Measuring agricultural productivity and efficiency**

This research topic began in June 2016. A first draft of the literature review and gaps analysis on the topic was prepared in September 2016, submitted to a group of experts and discussed in a technical workshop in December 2016. The literature review will be finalized and published in early 2017 and the Publication of the final version of the guidelines is envisaged for the third trimester of 2017.

### **SUST5: Framework, methods for measuring and monitoring Agricultural Sustainability**

In March 2016, the UNSC endorsed a total of 230 SDG indicators, based on countries' recommendations. FAO is the custodian for 20 of these, which also include Tier 3 SDG Indicator



2.4.1, “The percentage of agricultural area under productive and sustainable agriculture”. The GS has revised the scope of this research line and reoriented it to focus on developing methodology and data collection solutions for Indicator 2.4.1, in collaboration with FAO’s Strategic Programme 2 (SP2). Work on this line of research commenced in 2016, and the literature review was completed in November 2016 and discussed in a two-day technical consultation workshop in December 2016.

#### **RURA Improving rural statistics**

Work on this line of research commenced in the beginning of 2016. The research aims to provide a practical definition of “rural areas” that is nationally relevant and internationally comparable, and a set of key indicators for measuring and tracking rural development. To leverage the global pool of knowledge and expertise, the research topic is carried out in coordination with many international and national organisations and independent experts. In 2016, various documents have been published as working papers on the conceptual and territorial definition of rural areas. The technical reports on the environmental and social dimensions have been finalized and published in December 2016. The progress on the line of research have been submitted to Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) and IAEG-AG for review Q1 2017.

## OUTPUT 4

### Increased capacity of agricultural statistics staff in training centres and target countries

#### 4.1 Global Office

The GO published 21 technical reports, guidelines and training materials for dissemination in 2016 and a cumulative of 47 documents. All publications are available at: <http://www.gsars.org/category/publications/>. The implementation of the GS' Training and Technical Assistance components at global level mainly consists in the production of guidelines and training material, which serve as a basis to carry out the technical assistance (TA) and training activities at regional and country level. Output 4 products largely depend on the Research outputs. Generally, there is a time lag between Output 3 results and the guidelines and training material, as the latter may only be developed once the final technical reports are available. For this reason, there was a relatively limited number of deliverables under Output 4 throughout the first half of the GS programme. This output was expected to gain momentum in 2017.

**Guidelines** The following 2 guidelines were made available in 2016:

- **Handbook on Agricultural Cost of Production Statistics:** The Handbook on Agricultural Cost of Production statistics reviews the best practices in relation to the measurement of costs of production in agriculture. It provides recommendations to developing countries on what data should be collected, in what way, and how relevant indicators of costs and profitability for different cropping and livestock activities should be compiled and disseminated. The Handbook presents what is considered in the literature as the best approach, or gold standard, for each of the items to be measured but also describes second best and cost-efficient methods easier to implement in countries with more stringent technical and resource constraints. It also includes concrete numerical examples and applications for each method, partly coming from the tests and desk studies made in Tunisia, the Philippines and Colombia.
- **Best practices for enumerating nomadic and semi-nomadic livestock:** The document provides practical guidelines to country statisticians and aims to address the new awareness of the relative importance of livestock production and wealth generation that has arisen as well as the challenge to obtain reliable information on transient livestock populations wandering across extensive rangelands in search of seasonally available pasture. New methods of assessing livestock resources and production parameters, and new tools that can be used for geo-referencing, recording and analysing data are also described. Two types of surveys can be used to enumerate nomadic and transhumance livestock: (i) ground surveys and (ii) aerial/satellite surveys, with their respective ways of implementation. The Guidelines are based on several countries' case studies, notably from Afghanistan, Bolivia, Ethiopia, Jordan, Mali, Mongolia, Niger and Nigeria.

**Training Material** The following training material was made available in 2016:

- **Module for a short training course on Cost of Production:** A short training course on the "Handbook on Agricultural Cost of Production Statistics" was developed in 2015. It

was used in the delivery of three regional workshops (two in Africa and one in Asia). In addition to the existing training material, composed of presentations and lecture notes, in 2016 a tool was partially developed to facilitate the production of economic indicators on the cost and profitability of agricultural production for different levels of commodity and geographical aggregations in a given country. This tool, which will be tested and made available in 2017, will consist in a set of computer codes, routines and functions that generate a point-and-click interface, from which a user can perform data transformations and computations using microdata from household or farm surveys. The tool will also comprise a user manual, as well as any other material that provides guidance on using the tool. The promotion of this tool will be integrated in the various in-country workshops on agricultural Cost of Production planned for 2017.

- **CAPI – Workshop Training material:** to support in-classroom workshops on the use of Survey Solutions – the CAPI software developed by the World Bank with the GS’s sponsorship – was produced in the first half of 2016. The training material consists of a set of Powerpoint presentations and hands-on exercises. This material was used in the delivery of two workshops held in Asia-Pacific in the second half of 2016. In 2017, this training material will be made available in French and further disseminated through the African regional statistical training centres.
- **CAPI – Web tutorial:** A first version of the Self-Administered Training for Survey Solutions tutorial was released in October 2016. This e-learning tool contains narratives, presentations and videos, and was designed to meet the training needs of various professional profiles: Decision Makers, Survey Managers, Questionnaire Designers, Trainers of Field Staff and Data Analysts. It is directly accessible on the GS’s website.
- **Module for short training course in basic agricultural statistics (two weeks):** The GO has developed training material for a two-week basic course on agricultural statistics. The course targets statisticians and middle managers who have some statistical background but no specialization in agricultural statistics. The training material consists of a syllabus, a “Manual on Agricultural Statistics – An Overview”, a set of presentations to support in-classroom lectures, a set of Exercises and a short Guide for trainers. The material was peer-reviewed by UNECA and teachers from two African regional training centers. The course will be officially released in early 2017 and made available in English and French.

**Translation of guidelines and training material** The Global Office translation functions are limited to those reports and guidelines considered by the GO to be extremely relevant for most countries. The three following documents were translated in 2016: Handbook on Agricultural Cost of Production statistics (French and Spanish); Handbook on Master Sampling Frames for agricultural statistics (French and Spanish); Guidelines for the Enumeration of Nomadic and Semi-Nomadic (Transhumant) Livestock (French)

#### **Transfer of know-how to implementing partners**

In 2016, this budget line covered the organization of more regular meetings with and between regional implementers and the GOs’ participation in the following Regional Workshops and outreach events:

- Workshops on CAPI (Survey Solutions) – New Delhi (Jul 2016) and Bangkok (Oct 2016)
- Workshop on agricultural cost of production – Daejeon (Nov 2016)
- Global Strategy Training and Outreach Workshop on Agricultural Surveys (Oct 2016)
- Workshop on the Statistical Capacity of countries to monitor the SDGs related to Agricultural and Rural Statistics and on the Adoption of new cost-effective methods developed under the Global Strategy – Bangkok (Nov 2016)

## 4.2 Technical Assistance in Africa

The AfDB and the Global Office have elaborated a TA plan to jointly accelerate the delivery of Technical Assistance (TA) on targeted cost-effective statistical methodologies developed by the GS research component in a limited number of countries.

In 2016, **AfDB** provided TA activities on newly developed cost-effective methods on the following technical areas:

- **Master Sampling Frame (MSF) to Rwanda** to assist the country in introducing crop cutting techniques by training technical staff in applying appropriate statistical skills. Those skills will serve for estimating crop yield and production, and for analysing data using an adequate statistical package. The country received assistance in consolidating the achievements of the 2014 survey and identifying areas for improvement. Furthermore, assistance was provided on how to implement the improvements identified through the survey.
- **Agricultural Cost of Production Statistics (AgCoP)**, through the organization of two technical workshops, one for French speaking countries (in Hammamet, Tunisia, from 07-11 March 2016) and another one for English speaking countries (Cairo, Egypt, from 03-07 April 2016). A total of 23 countries were trained (two participants per country, one from the Ministry of Agriculture and another one from the National Statistical Office of above mentioned countries). Both workshops achieved their main objectives as they provided participants with an opportunity to be updated on AgCoP concepts, definitions, data collection methods, and experiences. Among the recommendations and the conclusions made by both workshops, there is a critical need to deliver specific and targeted technical assistance, tailored to the actual country needs. To better identify these needs, a related survey was undertaken, and using the obtained results, a Concept Note on the model/strategy for delivering Technical Assistance on AgCoP statistics was developed. The launch of the use of such model will be undertaken in one potential country where the AgCoP system is being established;

Support has also been provided by AfDB on the **MSCD compilation**, through the following activities:

- establishing a harmonized set of data from all countries based on the requirement of the Global Strategy in Africa. An expert meeting was organised in Abuja, Nigeria from 24 to 26 February 2016 to validate a user manual and the 12 reporting templates to help countries effectively compile and report on Minimum Set of Core Data (MSCD) in a consistent manner, both in quality and quantity. This meeting brought together 19 agricultural statistics experts from 11 selected countries in Africa.
- a regional workshop on MSCD was held in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania from 21 to 25 November, 2016 to mainly compile and validate datasets on core data items from

countries (the data set ranging from 2000-2015). This meeting was attended by 58 participants from the NSOs and MoAs across Africa including representatives from FAO and AfDB.

In 2016, the **Global Office**, through the implementation of the new accelerated TA plan for Africa carried out several initiatives for involving Regional Economic Communities (RECs), Sub-Regional Organizations (SROs) and statistical training centres in the implementation of the plan for 2017 and 2018, including the recruitment and training of young African statisticians as future TA providers who will be appointed in specific SROs. A first letter of agreement was signed with Afristat for the delivery of all training and TA activities on the development of MSFs and on the compilation of FBSs (including the organization of a regional training on FBS with ENSAE). The SADC Secretariat was contacted and a first draft of a Letter of Agreement was shared for review and discussion. It proposes a collaborative approach for the delivery of TA activities on the use of CAPI (Survey Solutions) for data collection and on the compilation of statistics on Cost of Production, Post-Harvest Losses and Livestock and livestock products. Finally, ENSEA and EASTC were contacted to discuss their participation in the delivery of regional training on CAPI, and they confirmed their interest. The GO took several steps towards the delivery of in-country training and technical assistance on the development of a master sampling frame for agricultural statistics. Liaison activities with the targeted countries commenced and a strategy for the identification of in-country trainees was developed.

### 4.3 Training in Africa

The regional activities conducted by **UNECA** were mainly focused on reinforcing the capacity of training providers in agricultural statistics. In this regard, the following training sessions were organized:

- Expert Group Meeting on the Finalization of the special agricultural statistics training programme, held from 13 to 15 January 2016 in Dakar. It was attended by 15 experts from ECA, IDEP, AFRISTAT, regional STCs (ENSAE-Dakar, ISSAE-Yaoundé, Makerere University, EASTC-Dar es Salaam), and NSOs from Madagascar, Niger, Burkina Faso; and Gambia.
- Launch of the special agricultural statistics training programme, held from 10 to 13 May 2016 in Abidjan. The purpose of the meeting was to launch a specialisation programme for agricultural statistics and engage in consultations with statistical training schools to design a road map for implementing the agricultural statistics specialization programme.
- Training Workshops on newly developed methods to support the curricula profiles of statistical training centres: a total of 12 training workshops were organized in 2016 and a total of 276 participants representing 48<sup>2</sup> African countries took part in the trainings. The trainings covered the topics of Agricultural Census and Surveys, Agricultural Data

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<sup>2</sup> Algeria, Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroun, CAR, Chad, Cabo Verde, Comoros, Cote d'Ivoire, Congo-Brazzaville, DRC, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gambia, Ghana, Gabon, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Libya, Liberia, Mauritania, Mali, Morocco, Mozambique, Mauritius, Madagascar, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sudan, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, South Africa, Senegal, Swaziland, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe, , Togo, Tunisia, and Tanzania

Processing, Master Sampling Frame for Agricultural Surveys, Integrated Survey Framework: Indirect Sampling for Agricultural Statistics and Master Sampling Frame. The main objectives of the training workshops were to give the participants the skills and competencies necessary for producing and using the newly developed tools and techniques for agricultural statistics. The workshops enhanced the skills and competencies of the experts of the represented agricultural statistics agencies to design and conduct agricultural censuses and surveys.

#### 4.3 Technical Assistance in Asia-Pacific

In-country activities have reached an advanced stage of implementation in the fifteen countries selected from 2013 - 2015 (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Georgia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Maldives, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, Samoa, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam). In 2016, an additional four countries (China, Malaysia, Mongolia and Tonga) were selected and work has started in Mongolia. Work in China and Tonga has also commenced with remote assistance (e-mail) being provided by the Regional Office to the respective National Strategy Coordinators for work on country assessments. In addition to these 15 countries, work on the development of a Pacific Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics (P-SPAFS) for the Pacific Island Countries has also continued.

#### 4.3 Training in Asia-Pacific

With regard to the training activities, seven training courses/workshops were organized by the United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (SIAP) as part of the programme on “Building Training Resources for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics” in 2016. Key collaborating partners included the Global Office, FAORAP, the Pacific Community (SPC), FAO sub-regional office for the Pacific Islands, the World Bank, Government of Indonesia through BPS-Statistics Indonesia, the Republic of Korea through the Korea Statistics (KOSTAT) and the Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in the Asia and Pacific Region. The following regional training courses were undertaken:

- Regional Workshop on Training of Trainers on Official Statistics (March 2016)
- Training Course on Communication and Advocacy for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (June 2016)
- Regional Training Course on Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI)/Data collection with Survey Solutions (September 2016)
- Regional Training Course on Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) for Agricultural Surveys and Price Reporting (October 2016)
- Third Regional Training Course on Sampling Methods for Producing Core Data Items for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (October 2016)
- Policy Analysis Workshop: Transition towards Sustainable Agriculture in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (November 2016)
- Regional Training Course on Agricultural Cost of Production Statistics (November 2016)

The focus areas were the minimum set of core data for agricultural and rural statistics outlined in the Global Strategy, data collection through sample surveys as well as communication and advocacy strategy for agricultural and rural statistics. This series of training-of-trainers workshops brought together 144 statisticians and training specialists from national statistical offices, ministries of agriculture and regional organisations 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. Participating countries for these seven regional courses were Afghanistan, Australia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Georgia, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea, Lao PDR, Malaysia, the Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Caledonia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga and Viet Nam.

RAP implementing partners jointly designed and conducted the regional workshops. In addition, statistical training institutes of Indonesia and Republic of Korea hosted, on a cost-sharing basis, the workshops. The regional workshops also served to identify potential training institutes and experts for the network of national training institute partners for agricultural and rural statistics. In terms of output 4, a regional training workshop on survey sampling for agricultural and rural statistics was conducted in collaboration with BPS-Indonesia in Jakarta. Afghanistan, Bhutan, Cambodia, Georgia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Maldives, Myanmar, the Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam participated in this workshop. Furthermore, a Communications and Advocacy workshop was conducted in collaboration with Republic of Korea and with the participation of Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Maldives, Myanmar, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. In addition a workshop on Cost of Production Statistics was also held in the Republic of Korea under the same collaboration effort, including expertise from the Global Office. Participants under RAP were drawn from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Indonesia, Lao PDR, the Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Tonga and Viet Nam.

Approximately 144 statistical experts participated in seven regional workshops and seminars on the Use of Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) tools, Cost of Production Statistics, and communication and advocacy for agricultural and rural statistics. SIAP also supported Bhutan, China and India to take part in the international training for young statisticians presented by the US Department of Agriculture at FAO headquarters in Rome. While there has been progress in implementing the training components, it is very difficult to gauge on the impact of training on the production of agricultural statistics due to other factors. Nonetheless, the evaluation of training programmes shows that over 86 percent of participants increased confidence in their implementation activities.

## **OUTPUT 5**

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### **AGRIS (Agricultural and Rural Integrated Survey)**

In 2015, the work of AGRIS is organized around three main components:

#### **AGRIS Methodology**

The initial work on the AGRIS methodology started in 2015, funded by the GS. In 2016, activities expanded and progress accelerated, in line with the prioritized AGRIS Toolkit development plan. Several outputs of the GS Research agenda are being used as inputs for developing the AGRIS methodology. Under this component, the AGRIS generic questionnaires will be finalized in 2017. A first version of the questionnaires was made available for peer review in fall 2016. This version benefited from desk work by lead experts in their fields, as well as several peer reviews organized with partner agencies (including ILO and the World Bank) and country experts. CAPI-based questionnaires will be made available together with traditional paper versions. Associated resources are being developed, including comprehensive methodological notes. This component will also include the design of the recommended AGRIS sampling strategies, for which a draft has been developed. Special attention will be paid to the availability of multilingual packages. For this component, activities should be completed by 30 June 2017.

#### **Piloting of AGRIS in one country (Ghana)**

The objective is to continue field-testing the AGRIS generic methodology and its associated AGRIS Methodological Toolkit. Under the second component, the activities ongoing in Ghana to test the proposed generic AGRIS methodology, including questionnaires, will be finalized. Cognitive tests are being run to help fine-tune questionnaires and provide information on the best approach to adopt when introducing new concepts and measuring their associated variables. Additional field tests will be held in early 2017, to quantify the precise effort required in undertaking questionnaires, which will be informative when proposing short and long versions of the generic AGRIS questionnaires. This will also be beneficial to the AGRIS costing models.

#### **Global AGRIS coverage, governance and integration with LSMS-ISA**

The GS staff strongly contributed to the raising of funds for AGRIS throughout 2016, with the development and signature of two proposals with USAID and the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation for a total of US\$18 million. The effort will continue for the establishment of the GRAInS Partnership, which will be the global arrangement to continue further methodological development (such as further integration between AGRIS and the LSMS-ISA) and actual survey implementation.



### **3. Progress towards the programme's logical framework.**

#### **3.1 Progress towards the programme indicators**

Programme level					Annual achievements 2016	Cumulative achievements
Programme indicator	Baseline	Target	MoV			
Output 1	Number of governance meetings organized at global and regional level	2	43 meetings (6 GSC + 12 GEB + 18 RSC + 7 coordination meetings)	Minutes of meetings	1 GSC; 1 GEB; 1 coordination meeting and 1 RSC in A&P and 1 RSC in Africa	8 GSC meetings and 6 GEB meetings & 4 coordination meetings; 4 RSC in Africa and 6 RSC in A&P
	Number of Regional action plans developed	1	5	Regional Plans	0	4 (Africa, A&P, CIS and LAC)
	Number of annual consolidated narrative reports and annual and midyear financial reports submitted	0	12 annual consolidated progress report, 6 annual financial reports and 5 midyear financial reports	Annual reports	1 narrative, 1 financial and 1 midyear financial report	10: 4 Narratives, 4 Financial reports and 2 midyear financial reports
	Number of annual workplans endorsed by the governance of the programme	0	(6 Africa, 6 A&P, 6 LAC, 6 RNE, 6 CIS)	Annual workplans	3: 1 Africa and 1 A&P and 1 Global Office	15: 5 Africa, 5 A&P and 5 Global Office
Output 2	Number of target countries that have improved national coordination mechanisms and statistical legislation	0	90 (40 in Africa; 20 in Asia; 20 in LAC; 5 CIS; 5 NE )	Regional and consolidated progress reports	3 in Africa and 2 in A&P	18 in Africa and 13 in A&P
	Number of target countries that have integrated agricultural and rural statistics into their NSDSS.	0	90 (40 in Africa; 20 in Asia; 20 in LAC; 5 CIS; 5 NE )	Regional and consolidated progress reports	9 in Africa and 3 in A&P	26: 15 in Africa and 11 in A&P
	Number of target countries where additional government funding is provided to support agricultural statistics.	0	90 (40 in Africa; 20 in Asia; 20 in LAC; 5 CIS; 5 NE )	CA questionnaire	4 in Africa	4 in Africa and 3 in A&P

Programme level					Annual achievements 2016	Cumulative achievements
Programme indicator	Baseline	Target	MoV			
<b>output 3</b>	Number of research topics completed by the Global Office	0	30	Technical reports and minutes of SAC meeting	13	30
<b>Output 4</b>	Number of technical reports, guidelines and training materials developed and disseminated	0	80	progress report	23: 2 in A&P, 21 GLO	64: 8 in Africa and 9 in A&P, 40 technical standards and guidelines and 7 training material
	Number of target countries that have adopted a minimum of 5 cost effective methods	0	90 (40 in Africa; 20 in Asia; 20 in LAC; 5 CIS; 5 NE )	CA	0 in Africa and 0 in A&P	0 in Africa and 0 in A&P
	Number of countries producing agreed minimum set of core data of adequate quality	0	90 (40 in Africa; 20 in Asia; 20 in LAC; 5 CIS; 5 NE )	progress report	3 in Africa and 0 in A&P	7 in Africa and 5 in A&P (that was the baseline in A&p)
	Number of target countries who have received appropriate training on the use of cost effective methods	0	90 (40 in Africa; 20 in Asia; 20 in LAC; 5 CIS; 5 NE )	progress report	18 in Africa and 17 in A&P	52 in Africa and 17 in A&P
<b>Output 5</b>	AGRIS methodology developed and tested in full scale in 1 country	0	1	progress report	0	0

### 3.2 Annual consolidated activity report

	Global Office level	Regional level	Country level	Achievements 2016	Cumulative achievements
	Global Office indicators	Regional Level indicators	Country level indicators		
Output 1	Number of GSC meetings, GEB meetings, coordination meetings organized	Number of RSC REB meetings (or alternative governance group) organized	-	1 GSC; 1 GEB; 1 coordination meeting and 1 RSC in A&P and 1 RSC in Africa	8 GSC meetings and 6 GEB meetings & 4 coordination meetings; 4 RSC in Africa and 6 RSC in A&P
	Annual narrative and financial reports submitted to the GSC	Annual regional narrative and financial regional reports submitted to the Global Office	-	1 narrative, 1 financial and 1 midyear financial report	10: 4 Narratives, 4 Financial reports and 2 midyear financial reports
Output 2	-	Number of missions to target countries to support the identification of core data	-	6 in A&P	47 in Africa and 28 in A&P
	-	Number of countries with national coordination mechanism in place	←	34 in Africa and 2 in A&P	49 in Africa and 13 In Asia
	-	Number of target countries that have improved statistical legislation	←	3 in Africa	18 in Africa
	-	Number of workshops on SPARs organised	-	8 in Africa 13 in A&P	17 in Africa and 36 in A&P
	-	Number of missions in countries to support the SPARs	-	14 in Africa and 18 in A&P	32 in Africa and 44 in A&P
	-	Number of target countries which have completed the SPARs	←	18 in Africa and 3 in A&P	24 in Africa and 8 in A&P
	-	Number of advocacy workshops organized	-	1 in Africa and 3 in A&P	2 in Africa and 7 in A&P
	-	Number of target countries where additional government funding is provided to support agricultural statistics	←	4 in Africa	4 in Africa and 3 in A&P

	Global Office level	Regional level	Country level	Achievements 2016	Cumulative achievements
	Global Office indicators	Regional Level indicators	Country level indicators		
<b>Output 3</b>	Number of research topics with a methodological basis prepared			10	33
	Number of expert meetings organized to discuss the research topics			12	32
	Number of research topics peer reviewed	-	-	8	29
	Number of research topics field tested.			6	25
<b>Output 4</b>	Number of guidelines and training materials developed and disseminated	Number of syllabus, curricula and teaching materials produced	-	2 in A&P, 21 GLO	8 in Africa and 9 in A&P, 40 technical standards and guidelines and 7 training material
	-	Number of backstopping missions per country on the adoption of New methodologies & data harmonization	-	1 in Africa and 7 in A&P	1 in Africa and 15 in A&P
	-	Number of workshops on cost effective methods	-	3 in Africa & 4 in A &P	3 in Africa & 4 in A &P
	-	Number of target countries that have adopted a minimum of 5 main cost effective methods	←	0	0
	-	Number of countries producing agreed minimum set of core data of adequate quality	←	3 in Africa and 0 in A&P	7 in Africa and 5 in A&P (that was the baseline in A&p)
	-	Number of missions to support training development	-	27 in Africa and 5 in A&P	70 in Africa and 6 in A&P
	-	Number of scholarships provided	-	3 in A&P	39 in Africa and 3 in A&P
	-	Number of training workshops organized at regional and country level	-	9 in Africa and 10 in A&P	19 in Africa and 16 in A&P
	-	Number of target countries who have received appropriate training on the use of cost effective methods	←	18 in Africa and 17 in A&P	52 in Africa and 17 in A&P
<b>Output 5</b>	AGRIS methodology developed and tested in full scale in 1 country	AGRIS methodology developed and tested in full scale in 1 country	-	0	0

## 4. Comments on the implementation of the Global Strategy

### Progress towards the consolidated logical framework:

**Output 1:** The GO and the Regional Offices in Africa and Asia and the Pacific are on track for meeting the targets in terms of number of governance meetings organized at global level and regional level, number of annual consolidated narrative and financial reports submitted and number of annual workplans endorsed by the GSC. The implementation of most of the planned activities is also on track. In 2016, the Global Office and the other implementing partners requested a no-cost extension of the programme in order to ensure the full implementation of the technical aspects of the programme, including the effective delivery of Technical Assistance activities in Africa and Asia/Pacific.

**Output 2:** At regional level, both Africa and Asia and the Pacific are progressing towards the targets established in terms of number of countries with improved national coordination mechanisms and statistical legislation. In Africa, there have been delays on the SPARS owing to the recruitment of experts and the slow process for transferring funds to the countries. Nevertheless, progress on the MSCD is progressing well as African countries are now understanding the concepts, definitions and classifications of the core items and related key variables. Asia has made significant progress towards integrating the SPARS into the National Strategies to Develop Statistics (NSDS)(16 countries out of the target of 20 countries). In addition, six countries<sup>3</sup> have made progress on the identification of core data items, and two of them<sup>4</sup> have improved their national coordination mechanisms. In general, there is low level of additional government funding provided to support agricultural statistics in both regions.

**Output 3:** In 2016, the Global Office made significant progress in the implementation of the research programme. Throughout the year, 13 research programs were completed and 21 reports and working papers were published.

**Output 4:** The progress towards this output has increased compared to previous year. The GO published 21 technical reports, guidelines and training materials for dissemination in 2016 and a cumulative of 47 publications. The delivery of this output will increase in 2017-2018 given the expected increase in the results of the research component (Output 3). In Africa, the number of countries having received appropriate training on cost-effective methods is above target due to the number of national and regional training workshops that were organized in 2016. In Asia, a Network for the Coordination of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific has been established to strengthen the capacities of national statistical training institutions and serve as regional nodes for providing training in agricultural and rural statistics.

**Output 5:** In 2016, progress on AGRIS accelerated. In line with the prioritized AGRIS Toolkit development plan, several outputs of the GS Research agenda are being used as inputs for developing the AGRIS methodology. The first version of the questionnaires was made available for peer review in fall 2016 and the testing of the methodology started in August 2016 in Ghana.

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<sup>3</sup> Afghanistan, Cambodia, Maldives, Mongolia, Papua New Guinea and Viet Nam

<sup>4</sup> Afghanistan and the Maldives

## 5. Key challenges and mitigation measures

### 5.1. Challenges

In 2016, the Global Office has made significant efforts towards addressing some of the main challenges listed in the narrative progress report for 2015, particularly in relation to the transfer of know-how to countries. In this regard, the Global Office contributed to the development of the accelerated Technical Assistance plan in Africa to strength the delivery of technical assistance in African countries. The same approach was followed in Asia-Pacific in the preparation of the 2017 workplan. In addition, the Global Office improved the efficiency of the research agenda by limiting the set of countries for conducting tests to leverage economies of scale in formal bureaucratic arrangements.

Despite efforts for overcoming the contextual challenges, throughout 2016, the following challenges were identified:

- 1) **Human Resources** – Challenges include: a) finding technical experts at national level and on niche subject areas such as nomadic livestock, farm typology, etc.; b) timely recruitment and retention of suitable staff; c) at regional level, AfDB’s administrative procedures for recruiting national consultants cause delays in delivery of work on timely manner.
- 2) **Administrative and Financial Resources & Resource Mobilization** – Challenges include: a) funding gaps for the under-funded regions (LAC, CIS, RNE); b) difficulty in the transfer of funds to certain countries for completion of SPARS, e.g. countries under sanctions; and c) lack of availability of human and financial resources at country level to complete the statistical process.
- 3) **Transfer of Cost-Effective Methods at Regional and country level** – Challenges include: a) regional offices have difficulties in absorbing the new cost-effective methods developed by the GO due to the lack of experts on cost effective methods; b) lack of coordination between the calendar of materials produced by the GO and the delivery of TA and Training at regional level resulting in difficulties in terms of programming; c) the lack of coordination mechanisms at country level may pose some logistical challenges for the organization of missions, and identifying the correct counterparts and stakeholders.
- 4) **Training:** - challenges include: a) the strong dependency between the research and the technical assistance components, which affects the preparation of training materials and training sessions; b) aligning training activities with the actual activities planned in the countries due to the lack of training needs assessments in many countries.

### 5.2 Mitigation measures identified by the challenges

To address these challenges the following mitigation measures have been identified:

- 1) **Human Resources** –the following mitigation measures have been identified: a) expanding the network of consultants through other distribution lists such as the e-bulletin; and b) AfDB is exploring alternative administrative mechanisms for expediting the recruitment of consultants at country level and transferring the funds to the recipient countries.
- 2) **Financial Resources & Resource Mobilization** –The following mitigation measures have been identified: a) the GO is actively supporting the regions (LAC, Near East) in preparing regional resource mobilization meetings and conferences; b) the regional workshops on Light Country Assessment and

MSCD paved the way for countries to better understand and appreciate the programme and enable them to carry out their individual country advocacy on the production of relevant agricultural statistics data for all users and c) emphasis will be placed on establishing sound coordination structures (such as committees and working groups) and partnerships at country level prior to starting the TA activities.

**3) Transfer of Cost-Effective Methods at Regional level** – Mitigation measures include: a) Building the capacity of the trainers and TA providers on the cost-effective methodologies requires time and investment but it is essential to meet the GS capacity-building objectives. When combined with activities related to the training of trainers, technical assistance actions can also strengthen the network of skilled trainers and TA providers. The training and technical assistance components have identified several TA activities in which a larger pool of trainers and TA providers could participate. This ensures adequate support provided to countries, while increasing the network of skilled experts. For example, teachers from regional training centres have been invited to participate in workshops organized by TA implementers.

b) better programming and coordination through the organisation of technical coordination meetings for the preparation of annual workplans; c) strengthening the M&E of the programme through the inclusion of a new technical assistance matrix at regional level that aims at monitoring the involvement of sub-regional institutions in the delivery of TA.

- 5) **Training:** - Mitigation measures include: a) finalized guidelines as final deliverable under most of the research topics instead of a technical report. In addition, strong emphasis will be placed on the calendar of deliverables. With regard to the preparation of training materials, the Global Office has prioritized the topics for which the training materials will be developed; b) identifying countries that are ready to adopt new technologies for producing agricultural statistics, including CAPI.



## 6. Risk analysis

Risks for the programme according to the consolidated logical framework.

### Output 1

#### **Risk 1: Lack of consistency between Regional Action Plans and Global Action Plan**

There is a low potential for this risk to occur. The current global logical framework supports consistency between the Regional Action Plans and the Global Action Plan. The GO has been actively supporting the update of the results framework

#### **Risk 2. Global and Regional governing bodies are not effective**

There is a low potential for this risk to occur. The main risk that may endanger the functioning of global and regional governing bodies is staff turnover; in A&P, the regional coordinator position has become vacant and the training statistician position at SIAP has not been filled yet. Furthermore, the staff of the regional office in Africa is composed by long term consultants. In this regard, the delays in their contract renewals will also affect the implementation of the activities.

### Output 2

#### **Risk 1: Low national political interest in setting up the necessary institutional and organizational structures**

There is a low potential for this risk to occur in Africa and in Asia and the Pacific. This risk is being mitigated through the organization of advocacy workshops at both regional and national levels on the relevance of the GS Action Plan.

#### **Risk 2: Non-functional national coordination structures**

There is a medium potential for this risk to occur in Africa and in Asia and the Pacific. In both regions, all stakeholders including the NSOs and MoAs have been involved in the relevant activities. In many countries, the development of SPARS is an opportunity to ensure that coordination structures function.

### Output 3

#### **Risk 1: Research does not respond to the regions' priority needs**

There is a low potential for this risk to occur. The research component has been progressively adapted to the demands emerging from time to time, to include new topics such as youth employment – horticultural crops and the research lines related to the new SDG framework. Furthermore, the global and regional offices meet frequently to discuss the research agenda in order to ensure that the research agenda addresses country priorities.

#### **Risk 2: Delays in finalizing technical guidelines**

There is a low potential for this risk to occur in Africa and in Asia and the Pacific. The Global Office has decided that the final deliverable under most of the research topics will be the finalized guidelines, rather than a technical report. In addition, strong emphasis is being placed on the delivery of the calendar of deliverables. With regard to the preparations of training materials, the Global Office has prioritized the topics for which the training materials will be developed. The no-cost extension will allow the complete achievement of the initial objectives.

### Output 4

#### **Risk 1: Technical difficulties at country level in applying new methods**

There is a high risk of this occurring. In the first three years of implementation, excessive emphasis was placed on the SPARS process. It may be noted that a slight change has been made in the implementation process of certain countries in 2016 compared to earlier years. In 2013-15 focus was placed on the preparation of SPARS and the associated outputs of the IdCA and Country Proposal Paper. However, as of late 2016, the dissemination and implementation of the new cost-effective methodologies developed under the Global Strategy has become

an integral part of GS implementation in the selected countries. In A&P, a regional workshop was organized for highlighting the new cost-effective methodologies and the provision of technical assistance to selected countries on the use of these methodologies is currently underway.

**Risk 2: Countries and trainees are not selected on the basis of countries' needs**

There is a medium potential for this risk to occur in Africa and in Asia and the Pacific. Aligning training activities with the actual activities planned in the countries has been challenging owing to the lack of training needs assessments in many countries. In this regard, UNECA has conducted an analysis of countries' training needs questionnaires to align training activities with their demand. The results of these questionnaires will be completed in 2017.

**Risk 3: High turnover of trained staff**

There is a medium potential for this risk to occur in Africa and in Asia and the Pacific. The mitigation strategy is to train the greatest number possible of staff. For the scholarship programme, students are required to serve within their national governments for a minimum number of years after they have completed their training.

**Risk 4: Lack of coordination in the provision of TA & Training**

This is a low-risk factor, calendars for the release of guidelines and training material are distributed among partners. Furthermore, throughout 2016, several coordination meetings were organized in order to design coherent plans for training and TA activities within the region and avoid any overlap in the implementation of activities carried out by the three regional implementers.

## Output 5

**Risk 1: Selected pilot country may experience technical and administrative difficulties in applying AGRIS**

The risk of this occurring is low as the selected pilot country has demonstrated a strong interest in the implementation of the AGRIS tool.

## 7. Next steps

### 1) **Implementing recommendations of the Mid-Term Evaluation and Designing Phase II of the Global Strategy (Global Office and other stakeholders as required)**

The Global Office needs to consider the second phase of the GS after the end of its first phase in 2018. The GO will set up a task team for making recommendations to the Global Steering Committee in September 2017. The second phase of implementation of the Global Strategy is planned to cover the period 2019-2023, and will probably focus on strengthening countries' capacities to respond more effectively to data needs in a sustainable agricultural statistical system.

### 2) **Finalising the research activities and the provision of related guidelines-training material (Global Office)**

With regard to the technical activities, the Global Office will place strong emphasis on the planning and monitoring of the research agenda in order to ensure the timely submission of the associated guidelines and training materials, as applicable. Most of the research activities should be completed by the end of 2017.

### 3) **Resource Mobilization for Underfunded Regions and Countries (Global Office, Regional Offices for CIS, LAC, RNE, Countries)**

The Global Office will also continue to support the underfunded regions in resource mobilisation through of the organization of donor conferences. At country level, the stakeholders will continue to assist countries in increasing advocacy efforts at national level to provide additional funding to support agricultural statistics and sustainable funding for SPARS.

### 4) **Technical Assistance (TA) in Africa (AfDB)**

TA on cost-effective methodologies at country level will be organized and considered as a priority for the continent. The SPARS process will continue in countries that have already launched the process. In addition, AfDB will publish the results of the 2015 LCA and conduct the 2017 main country assessment to measure the impact of the programme and decide on the strategy for the next phase. Technical Assistance will be provided on the use of cost-effective methods and workshops with countries that need technical support in specific areas will be organized (AgCoP, MSF, FBS/SUA, Data reconciliation and compilation/review of MSCD, CAPI, PHL, Livestock including nomadic livestock). Some of these TA activities will also involve subregional organizations such as SADC, UEMOA, AFRISTAT and ENSEA.

### 5) **Training in Africa (UNECA, Regional Statistical Training Centres)**

Training will focus on transforming the outputs of the research component into training materials and delivering training on these subjects in statistical training centres. Countries will also be encouraged to transition to more strategic human resources management when it comes to staffing the statistical systems. Training workshops in new and emerging technologies in agricultural statistics, food balance sheet, nomadic livestock will be organized. In addition, ECA will focus on the production of manual for hands-on training with practical exercises, training datasets and case studies on best practices in the Africa context: new and emerging technologies in agricultural statistics, food balance sheet, nomadic livestock. Both staff working in agencies that produce agricultural statistics and young statisticians will be trained to become specialists in agricultural statistics. A specialization programme will be implemented in at least 5 statistical training centres. Finally, syllabus will be developed on the same topics covered by the technical assistance and/or other topics agreed on within the research component. ECA will organize training of trainers workshops to build the capacity of STCs and with their collaboration both ECA and STCs will specialise 40 people in agricultural statistics. With regard to the scholarships, ECA will produce of advocacy material, publication of scholarships attribution criteria, gender and quota by countries, development of website giving general information, development of an e-newsletter, as well as a communication plan. The scholarships will be also attributed for master studies for Lusophone countries. ECA will also develop a database of scholarships beneficiaries and

training workshop attendants for better monitoring \*what?

**6) Technical Assistance (TA) in Asia & Pacific (FAO RAP)**

The regional activities will be focused on finalizing and obtaining endorsement for SPARS documents in eight countries and undertaking technical assistance work in GS implementing countries as specified in Country Proposal papers and by the RSC. Furthermore, they will provide in-country technical assistance to GS implementing countries on the topics of the seven<sup>5</sup> new cost-effective methodologies developed by the Global Strategy and operationalizing the Pacific Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics (P-SPAFS).

**7) Training in Asia & Pacific (SIAP)**

The training activities for 2017 will focus on the development and organization of short-term courses on the topics of the new cost-effective methodologies. These areas of training will include: i) Improving basic skills and knowledge of statistical staff engaged in agricultural and rural statistics data collection and analysis; ii) training of trainers (through regional level activities) to deliver country-level courses; iii) building training resources (training needs assessment tools, curricula and syllabuses, training materials, expert trainers) towards strengthening capacity of national and regional training institutions; iv) strengthening training coordination and collaboration through networking activities, including through regional/sub regional assessments and curriculum development, expert meetings and networking forums and iv) strengthening training coordination with counterparts in the Africa region and with the Global Office.

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<sup>5</sup> CAPI, Master Sampling Frame and AGRIS, Measuring Cost of Production, Improving the quality and use of administrative data, Compiling Livestock and Livestock Products Statistics, Compiling Food Balance Sheets and Measuring Post-harvest Losses

# ANNEX 1

## Collaboration with partners

The Global Strategy has been collaborating with ongoing initiatives in statistical capacity building. These projects include the following:

### At Global level

#### FAO

FAO is the lead United Nations agency in charge of setting standards and methodologies for agricultural and rural statistics, all of which contribute to the pillars of the Global Strategy. To that end, FAO has finalized the development of guidelines of the 2020 World Programme for the Census of Agriculture, which cover the period 2016-2025, and acts as a major source of input for the minimum set of core data (first pillar of GS) and for 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 GS. FAO provides substantial technical assistance at country level through Technical Cooperation Projects that can be used for implementing technical support on areas identified through the SPARS process.

Other collaboration efforts cover the three following projects:

#### *AMIS project -BMGF*

The Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) was established at the request of the agriculture ministers of the Group of Twenty (G-20) in 2011. It serves as an inter-agency platform to enhance food market transparency and encourage coordination of policy action in response to market uncertainty. A key objective of AMIS is to build statistical capacity in participating countries. These statistical capacity building activities, including methodological development, have been primarily funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation and the Government of Japan, and implemented by FAO in close connection with the Global Strategy research agenda. AMIS is contributing to the research component of the GS by developing knowledge and methodologies in 3 areas: 1) food grain stocks (measurement framework, documentation of good practice, on-farm stocks); 2) market price information systems (data crowdsourcing, mobile app for data collection); and 3) yield forecasting (documentation of good practices). AMIS also complements GS activities through country support and technical assistance in Nigeria, India and Bangladesh.

#### *Targeted support for agricultural statistical innovation at FAO- Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation:*

This project covers a number of interlinked components, such as the scaling-up of the methodological, governance and country outreach work for AGRIS; the promotion of open data in agriculture; and improving the establishment of the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) as a global standard of reference to measure households' or individuals' ability to access food. This proposal will directly benefit from the results of the AGRIS methodology developed by the Global Office, as described above, and will support its customization in 15 countries, with appropriate support to additional fund raising for further implementation.

#### *AGRIS implementation at country level- USAID*

USAID has funded a new project implemented by the FAO Statistics Division for a total budget of 15 USD million to support the implementation of the Agricultural Integrated Survey (AGRIS) in four pilot countries. Staff from the Global office was instrumental in the design of this grant.

## **Japan**

Japan funds the FAO project “Strengthening agricultural statistics and food security information in CARD (Coalition for African Rice Development) countries through South-South Cooperation 2013-2018”, which aims at implementing and further developing the national rice development strategies prepared or being prepared by countries, by improving agricultural statistics, particularly rice production data. It will identify appropriate statistical methods implemented in the countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, test the suitability for selected CARD countries and conduct capacity development of local institutions through in-country training and regional workshops in the design, implementation and supervision of field surveys using the selected methods. Nine countries (Benin, Cote d’Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Nigeria, Senegal, and Uganda) are part of the project and implementation is underway. A pre-test of selected statistical methods has been conducted in Uganda and training materials have been developed based on the pre-test. Capacity building is planned for 2-3 countries per year. The Global Office is working closely with CARD management to ensure that methodological developments can be disseminated through the Global Strategy and made available to a large number of countries, possibly through joint publications.

## **World Bank**

The World Bank has supported and collaborated with the GS at regional level and in the research component. At regional level, the World Bank has provided a \$500,000 grant to the Interstate Statistical Committee of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CISSTAT) for the project “Development of Agricultural and Rural Statistics in the CIS Region.” The project has been designed under the overall framework of the Global Strategy and will therefore contribute to the objectives of the Global Strategy. In 2015, CISSTAT finalized and presented the Regional Action Plan for the CIS region which was approved at the 11th Global Steering Committee Meeting of the GS. The World Bank is also actively contributing to the research component of the Global Strategy including the development of CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing) for data collection. The LSMS team of the World Bank is performing the research on improving methodology for consumption and finalizing the research on methods for estimating yield of root crops.

## **Inter-American Development Bank**

The Inter-American Development Bank (IADB) continues to play an important role in statistical capacity building in the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) region. IADB has provided a grant for a total of \$1,150,000 over three years to implement activities of the project “Development of a methodology for the implementation of agricultural statistical systems in Latin America and the Caribbean”. This project also falls under the framework of the Global Strategy.

## **In Africa**

The European Commission is funding \$10 million for the Africa Action Plan, which is included in the framework of the Global Strategy. The Action Plan is currently being implemented by the African Development Bank (AfDB) for Technical Assistance and the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) for Training. These activities are aligned with the main pillars and complement the objectives of the Global Strategy in the Africa region. Furthermore, the EC contribution completes the total budget of funding for activities of the GS from 2012-2018 in Africa. The Global Office supports the Regional Office in Africa in ensuring that activities are implemented in a harmonized way through the two different sources of funding (Global Trust Fund and EU).

## In Asia and the Pacific

The RO expanded its partnerships with sub-regional bodies (SAARC, ASEAN and SPC) with a view to broaden the impact of the Global Strategy beyond target countries and to improve resource mobilization.

### Synergies with other activities implemented **by the Asian Development Bank (ADB)**

In order to increase capacities of countries to adopt cost effective and reliable methods, ADB TA 8029 supported the review, analysis and documentation of good practices including causes of data inconsistencies and discrepancies. Six methodological papers were completed under the TA and have been published as a compendium:

- Examining the Available Data Sources for Agriculture Statistics in Bhutan
- Comparative Analysis of the Socioeconomic and Demographic Characteristics of Rural and Urban Households, Bhutan Living Standards Survey, 2003, 2007, and 2012
- Examining the Existing Agriculture Data Sources in Lao PDR
- Improving Administrative Reporting System for Agriculture in Lao PDR
- Adoption of Agricultural Land Information System in the Philippines (ALIS) for Agricultural Area Estimation
- Designing a Livestock Production Probability Survey in Viet Nam

ADB TA 8369 on Innovative Data Collection Methods for Agricultural and Rural Statistics also supports four pilot countries – Lao PDR, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam in adopting technologies and tools such as remote sensing to supplement data gathered from traditional data collection systems. Under the TA, software which transforms both optical and radar satellite data into rice area map will be developed, which can be used by statisticians to estimate rice area and production. Four training programs have been conducted under the TA for counterpart staff in the four pilot countries.

- Training on Basic Remote Sensing Concepts and Use of the International Asian Harvest Monitoring system for Rice (INAHOR) Software
- Training on QGIS and the Modified INAHOR Software
- Training on Crop Cutting survey for rice utilizing area sampling frame approach
- Training on Farmer Recall survey for rice

An online e-learning course on the topic has also been developed and interested participants were invited to register online at <https://goo.gl/qtrZSo>. Four ADB Economics Working Papers will be released in 2017 covering various research topics in remote sensing and agricultural statistics.

ADB TA 9018 on “Implementing Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Tools to Improve Data Collection and Management of National Surveys in Support of the Sustainable Development Goals” has also commenced in 2016. The project will look into the use of Computer-Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI) for improving the data collection methods of National Statistical Systems in 4 countries – Lao PDR, Sri Lanka, Republic of Marshall Islands and Viet Nam. A randomized experimental technique will be utilized to inform countries on the benefits of transitioning from paper to computerized surveys. The expected project outcome is to institutionalize the usage of ICT tools in national-level surveys providing quality and timely statistics useful to track the progress of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).