



Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics – Asia Pacific



Updated Work plan and Budget 2018 for the Asia Pacific component of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics

Recognizing the need to accelerate activities in the second half of 2018, the following document was compiled by the Regional Office (RO) to take stock of ongoing activities in the Asia and Pacific region, and to outline an updated work plan and budget with respect to the project end-date in December 2018.

This document serves as a proposed amendment to the endorsed 2018 Work Plan and Budget that was submitted to the Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific (RSC) in November 2017 and the Global Steering Committee in December 2017.

The accelerated work plan and budget below is structured across the components of the Asia Pacific programme of the Global Strategy, comprising: (1) Activities of the RO, (2) Technical Assistance (TA) activities under the FAO Regional Office, (3) and Training activities organised by UNESCAP-SIAP.

This accelerated work plan and budget was presented at the Eighth Meeting of the RSC in June 2018 - receiving unanimous endorsement.

On behalf of the RSC, the RO submits the following updated work plan and budget for review by the Global Steering Committee and seeks its subsequent endorsement.

Regional Office Activities

In its capacity as the secretariat of the Regional Steering Committee, the RO plans to undertake the following activities in the latter half of 2018.

The activities listed are in addition to the regular activities of the RO which comprise of: planning and coordination of activities with the implementing partners, reporting to the Global Office as required, and providing logistical support to activities where needed.

1. Finalisation and dissemination of key Global Strategy technical reports

Resources will be prioritised to finalise and disseminate the key Global Strategy technical reports in implementing countries, including the In-depth Country Assessment report (IdCA), Country Project Proposals (CPP), and the Strategic Plans for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS).

Reports relating to the delivery of TA on the cost-effective methods will also be disseminated subject to government consent.

2. 2018 Round of the Country Assessment Questionnaire

A final round of the 2018 Country Assessment Questionnaire will be undertaken in 2018. Results from the assessment will feed into monitoring and evaluation framework for the region, and will be shared in analytical report by the RO.

3. Regional technical workshops

Regional workshops will be organized in collaboration with the regional and sub-regional organisations for the dissemination of Global Strategy guidelines on the new cost-effective methodologies on the following topics:

- a. Sub-regional [Pacific Islands] training course on Sampling Methods for Producing Core data items for Agricultural and Rural Statistics – with focus on use of Master Sampling Frames for the collection of crops, livestock and fisheries statistics (in collaboration with SIAP).
- b. Developing Master Sampling Frames for an integrated agricultural statistical system (in collaboration with SAARC).
- c. Training workshop on Post-Harvest Losses (in collaboration with SIAP)
- d. Workshop on cost-effective methodologies developed under the GS for the collection of sub-sector statistics (crops, livestock, fisheries)
- e. Two workshops on the “Use of cost-effective technologies for the collection of agricultural and rural statistics” with one for Asia and one the Pacific (in collaboration with Asian Institute of Technology for Asia region, and the Pacific Community [SPC] in the Pacific).

4. Communication and Advocacy

To promote the achievements of the Global Strategy in the first phase, the RO plans to develop and disseminate a range of knowledge materials through newsletters, brochures, flyers, and regular updates to both the FAO regional office webpage and the Global Strategy website.

Technical Assistance Activities

The TA component is currently led by the RO and the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP). TA activities are currently underway in sixteen countries in the region, and cover a number of the cost-effective methods developed under the Global Strategy including: Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI), Master Sampling Frame (MSF), Cost of Production statistics (COP), Food Balance Sheets (FBS), Crop statistics, and Livestock statistics.

It is noted while the RO will make all efforts to complete the following activities by the project-end date, the delivery of ongoing or planned activities in 2018 will remain subject to the readiness of countries to undertake the activity.

1. Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing.

Technical Assistance on the use of CAPI is ongoing in three countries: Mongolia, Papua New Guinea, and Timor-Leste; and activities are being planned in each to further delivery of the TA in each. In the latter half of 2018, the RO plans to extend support on the use of CAPI to Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji, Lao PDR, and Samoa in preparation for their respective Agricultural Censuses.

2. Master Sampling Frame

In addition to the regional workshops outlined in the previous section on Master Sampling Frames in 2018, the RO has extended its TA to Bangladesh, Bhutan, Pakistan and Timor-Leste to support the building of MSFs from an Agriculture Census. In the latter half of 2018, the RO plans to further support Lao PDR and Viet Nam.

3. Cost of Production

Cost of Production TA activities are currently ongoing in two countries in the region, notably: Mongolia, and Papua New Guinea. There are no further plans to extend TA to additional implementing countries in 2018.

4. Administrative Reporting Systems

Activities related to the improvement of administrative reporting systems have been completed in Lao PDR, and ongoing in Cambodia. Additional requests have been received by Bangladesh, and follow up activities are planned in 2018.

5. Food Balance Sheets

The delivery of TA on Food Balance Sheets (FBS) is ongoing in 10 countries in the region, comprising: Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Maldives, Mongolia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, and Viet Nam. Additional TA to support validation of the FBS using the new methodology will take place in an additional 4-5 countries in 2018 - subject to additional assistance required by countries and readiness to accept support under the available timeframe. Delivery of an additional TA on FBS is also planned for Nepal in 2018.

6. Crop statistics

TA for the improvement of crop statistics in the region is currently ongoing in Bhutan, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, and Sri Lanka. There are no further plans for TA activities during 2018.

7. Livestock statistics

TA on the improvement of livestock statistics has been completed in Bhutan, one activity is currently ongoing in Myanmar to support the development of an Integrated Sample Survey for livestock products. No further TA activities in this area are planned for 2018.

Due to changes in the priorities of national governments and the general readiness of the GS implementing countries in the latter half of 2018, it is anticipated that not all activities under the TA accelerated plan originally endorsed by the 13th Global Steering Committee in February 2017 will be able to be completed.

It is proposed that the TA accelerated plan be modified as per the changes in country demand in the implementation of the GS for 2018, as follows:

Table 1. Updated work plan for TA activities in GS implementing countries

Updated: July 2018

	CAPI	Cost of Production	Master sampling Frame	Food Balance Sheets	Post-Harvest Losses	Livestock	Crops	Agri Module Census Pop.	Admin. Data
Afghanistan									
Bangladesh									
Bhutan									
Cambodia									
China ¹									
Fiji									
Georgia									
Indonesia ¹									
Lao PDR									
Maldives									
Mongolia									
Myanmar									
Nepal ¹									
Pakistan									
Papua New Guinea									
Sri Lanka									
Samoa									
Thailand ¹									
Timor-Leste ¹									
Viet Nam									

¹ Additional country agreed upon where additional activities have taken place since previous TA accelerated work plan was approved in February 2017

	Ongoing/ Planned activity for 2018
	Change in country demand/ readiness for activity resulting in removal from work plan

Changes to the work plan are elaborated below by country.

In **Afghanistan**, it is expected that in-country TA activities on the development of the Master Sampling Frame and Cost of Production statistics will not be able take place in 2018 due to lack of required engagement and limited time available to deliver the activity. Where possible, the RO will prioritize the inclusion of Afghanistan in regional activities/training on the above topics.

In **Bangladesh**, ongoing TA activities in support the country on Cost of Production statistics for Mango have been placed on hold due to changes in country priorities.

In **Cambodia**, TA activities on CAPI, Cost of Production, crops, and administrative data will not be able to take place in 2018 due to lack of required engagement and limited time available to deliver the activity. Where possible, the RO will prioritize the inclusion of Cambodia in regional activities on the above topics.

In **Georgia**, TA activities on CAPI for their agricultural survey was provided by the World Bank.

In **Lao PDR**, TA activities for the Cost of Production statistics was provided by ASEAN Food Security Information System. The RO may provide supplementary assistance where required in 2018.

In the **Maldives**, country priorities on the CAPI and Master Sampling Frame was shifted as the country sought focus on the development of its Administrative Reporting System. Hence, insufficient engagement to maintain planned activity

In **Mongolia**, TA assistance related to Livestock is being provided through its related work on Cost of Production statistics for Meat and Milk products. No need for a separate activity or reporting separately.

In **Samoa**, in-country TA for post-harvest losses will not be able to take place in 2018 due to formal request not being received. Where possible, the RO will prioritize the inclusion of Samoa in regional activities on the topic.

In follow-up with the Government of **Thailand**, TA on CAPI was deemed better directed towards the World Bank with specific assistance on use of their CAPI platform, Survey Solutions.

Training Activities

The training component is currently being led by the Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP-SIAP). In the duration of the Global Strategy programme, a number of regional and sub-regional training programmes have been developed and delivered to GS implementing countries in the areas of: Communication and Advocacy, Sampling Methods, CAPI, Food Balance Sheets, and Cost of Production.

In addition to the series of regional trainings delivered, UNESCAP-SIAP has supported the coordination of the network of Statistical Training in Asia and the Pacific and at the country level implements a training needs assessment tool to identify ongoing requests from implementing countries.

In the latter half of 2018, UNESCAP-SIAP plans to:

1. Disseminate materials for training (especially for e-learning courses) in additional languages in the region in collaboration with supporting institutes.
2. Continue assessments of training needs and sharing information as a member of the Global Network of Institutions for Statistics Training (GIST).
3. Collaborate with FAORAP on delivery of a sub-regional training on Sampling Methods for Producing Core Data Items (planned 13 – 17 August 2018).
4. Collaborate with the FAORAP on the delivery of a regional training course on Post-Harvest Losses.

2018 Budget

The total carry-over of both implementing partners (FAORAP and SIAP) from 2017 was USD 1,618,220. Of the total carry-over, USD 1,404,279 was carried-over by FAORAP and USD 213,941 by UNESCAP-SIAP.

In November 2017, both the Regional Steering Committee and the Global Steering Committee endorsed an additional allocation from the GS Global Trust Fund for the Asia Regional Component totalling USD 142,515. The total funding available in 2018 as endorsed was therefore USD 1,546,794 for FAO RAP and USD 213,941 for UNESCAP-SIAP.

In the Eighth Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee, UNESCAP-SIAP and FAORAP jointly proposed the reallocation of additional funding from the GS Global Trust Fund be transferred to UNESCAP-SIAP to facilitate additional regional training workshops based on identified needs and the creation of stronger synergies with the TA component.

The Regional Steering Committee unanimously endorsed the proposed reallocation of USD 142,515 to UNESCAP SIAP. The total available budget for FAORAP and UNESCAP-SIAP would thus be USD 1,404,279 and USD 356,456 respectively.

With the revised allocation, planned expenditures across the regional outputs are expected to remain in proportion to the previously endorsed budget as per planned activities of the RO and the TA programme.

A revised budget for 2018 has thus been provided as an annex to this document, and is shared for the endorsement of the Global Steering Committee as part of the 2018 Accelerated Work plan and Budget.