ACCELERATED TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PLAN FOR AFRICA. GLOBAL OFFICE AND AFRISTAT

Key Highlights

- **PURPOSE:** To create an environment that will enable selected countries to regularly collect the data that policy-makers need to guarantee effective marketing, food security and agricultural development policies at country level while strengthening the capacity of regional and sub-regional institutions to assist countries in collecting this information over time.

- **APPROACH:** Delivery of targeted country-level support on selected cost-effective and improved methodologies developed by the Global Strategy in partnership with key sub-regional statistical institutions.

- **RESULTS:** Statistical capacity sustainably built in 14 countries for 6 cost-effective methodologies and in key regional partner institutions (AFRISTAT\(^1\), ENSEA\(^2\), ENSAE\(^3\) and EASTC\(^4\)), resulting in increased availability of agricultural data at the country and regional level.

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### Problem

**LACK OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS**

- Insufficient availability of specialized senior experts
- Key role of middle-level experts in the development of national agricultural statistical systems
- Limited knowledge, skills and experience of junior experts

**SOLUTION**

**BUILDING A NEW GENERATION OF TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDERS**

- Recruitment of young African statisticians from regional statistical training centers
- Two-month mandatory training program on targeted methodologies
  - Hands-on training sessions with senior statisticians
  - Direct involvement in the development of generic educational material developed for technical assistance purposes
- Relocation of trained statisticians in sub-regional institutions (e.g. AFRISTAT)
- Participation in all aspects of the technical assistance delivery activities under close supervision from senior experts
- Progressive takeover of responsibilities

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1. AFRISTAT (International institution concerned with statistics in Sub-Saharan Africa)
2. ENSEA (Ecole Nationale de Statistiques et d’Economie Appliquee)
3. ENSAE (Ecole Nationale de la Statistique et de l’Analyse Economique)
4. EASTC (Eastern Africa Statistical Training Centre)
Building Zambia’s capacity to produce agricultural cost-of-production (AgCOP) statistics for better decision-making

**ACTIVITIES**

**RESULTS**

**INCEPTION MISSION** (MARCH 2017)
- AgCOP data needs identified (e.g., in terms of target population, agricultural commodities, data disaggregation variables and cost items)
- Information gathered on current data sources and survey instruments
- Technical assistance activities discussed and agreed upon

**GAP ANALYSIS** (SPRING 2017)
- Gaps in Zambia’s current agricultural surveys (Crop Forecasting Survey (CFS) and Post-Harvest Survey (PHS)) assessed with regards to AgCOP measurement
- Recommendations on questionnaire improvements and broader survey strategy, especially timing and survey frequency aspects, provided

**TECHNICAL TRAINING AND SURVEY TOOLS IMPROVEMENT** (JULY 2017)
- Technical hands-on training on AgCoP provided to 12 statisticians, economists and survey managers from the Central Statistical Office, Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Fisheries and Livestock
- New modules or revised sections of the CFS and PHS questionnaires addressing AgCoP data gaps pretested

**FIELD TEST OF THE AGCOP SURVEY** (FALL 2017)
- Improved questionnaire and survey methodology field tested in two provinces
- 16 interviewers and field supervisors trained on AgCoP data collection specificities
- 320 agricultural holdings from the household sector interviewed using CAPI

**DATA ANALYSIS AND RESTITUTION WORKSHOP** (JANUARY 2018)
- 12 statisticians and economists trained in compiling AgCOP indicators and performing farm profitability analysis by commodities
- Results of pilot results and recommendations on how to scale up AgCoP data collection presented to more than 20 stakeholders, including policy analysts from key government departments and representatives of relevant international organisations

**IMPACT**

Sustainable capacity built in collecting AgCoP data and conducting farm profitability analysis by commodities, enabling, for example, in-depth analysis and decisions on subsidies and public support schemes, on possible orientation of agricultural production, and on impact of changes in use, availability or prices of input.

AgCoP questions and methodology field-tested and integration into regular national data collection activities planned.