Key features of SPARS and critical gaps identified in the Region

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Outline of Presentation

• Key Features of SPARS
  – Three pillars of Global Strategy
  – Vision, mission and goals
• Gaps Identified in RAP Region
• Way Forward
Why a Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics and what is it?

Many countries increasingly face:

• Declining Quality of Agricultural and Rural Statistics over time
• Declining capacity of Statistical Systems to meet growing data demands
• Inadequate integration of Agriculture into NSS
• Limited use of statistics in planning and policy formulation
• Duplicated efforts in data collection and dissemination
• Resource crunch for data collection => Low priority

Existing data collections do not permit cross cutting analysis across sectors

• Global Strategy is an initiative of the UN Statistical Commission, developed through an extensive consultation process by FAO, ADB and UNESCAP. This provides a framework for integrated approach to data collection.
• It is being implemented in 90 countries of the world and 20 countries in Asia Pacific region
Framework of National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Statistics (SPARS)

IdCA

National Strategy for Agriculture and Rural Statistics

National Strategy for Development of Statistics

Development Planning & Policy Framework

Legal & Administrative Framework

SDG Monitoring
Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS)

- **SPARS is a Long Term Strategy to improve ARS at the national level which derives its basis from NSDS**
- **This is the building block of NSDS and can be linked to development Planning process of the country with the following objectives**
  - Understanding the impact of agriculture policy on statistical priorities
  - Identifying data needs, gaps, deficiencies, duplications and inconsistencies
  - Defining future short- and long-term statistical programs and interventions
Why do we need a SPARS?

- To bring a long term vision for development of Agricultural statistics system
- To help mainstream Agriculture into the NSS/NSDS
- To raise the profile of agriculture statistics in the decision making process
- Capacity development to produce and analyse agriculture statistics on a sustainable basis
- To improve coordination (within sub-sectors) and between agriculture and NSO
- Harmonized data on agriculture for policy / decision makers
The Three Pillars of GS

1. Establish a minimum set of core data that countries will disseminate on a regular basis to meet current and emerging demands

2. Integrate agriculture into NSSs to meet the emerging requirements that statistical information be linked across the economic, social and environmental domains

3. Foster the sustainability of agricultural statistical systems through governance and statistical capacity building
Integration and Status of Implementation

Pillar I: Minimum set of core data
- Establish global and regional governance
  - Country assessment

Pillar II: Integrating agriculture in NSSs
- Master Frame
- Survey Integration
- Data coordination and dissemination

Pillar III: National Governance and statistical capacity building
- Research
- Training
- Technical Assistance
- Statistical capacity building
  - Statistical methods
  - Use of technology

Outcome: Statistically defensible, timely, and comparable information describing and linking the economic, social and environmental dimensions of the agricultural and rural domains
Basis of agricultural census/survey programme

Themes

Household food security
Aquaculture
Farm labour
Agricultural practices
Land
Irrigation
Livestock
Crops

CENSUS
CORE MODULE
CENSUS SUPPLEMENTARY MODULES
THEMATICAL AGRICULTURAL SURVEYS
POPULATION CENSUS
Common issue to be addressed in SPARS

• Specifying “what are the Official Statistics?”
• **Coordination** mechanism to ensure efficiency of the ARS system as whole, including both official and non-official statistics

• **Roles and responsibilities** of different agencies
  – Survey design
  – Field work
  – Data processing
  – Acceptance of results

• **Resource sharing** arrangements: manpower and finance

• Monitoring Framework

• Survey calendar
SPARS design process

1. Launching/Preparing P
   - Understanding, acknowledging,
   - Building constituency
   - Integrating the SPARS in the NS
   - Roadmap

2. Assessment Phase

3. Planning Phase
   - Vision and Mission
   - Strategic Goals and Outputs
   - Action Plan
Planning Phase

Results-based management approach in 4 levels:

1. Start with your **vision** and **mission** statements
2. Set your **strategic goals/outcomes** contributing to the vision and mission
3. Define the corresponding **outputs**
4. Design an **Action plan** describing the **activities** to produce the outputs

Use the results chain as a logframe to plan, monitor and evaluate results
Vision, Missions and Goals

**Vision:** Where do we want to be in 5-10 years?
• Build a compelling vision for your future that contains goals, values, beliefs and expected outcomes;

• **Mission:** What is our business?
The mission that creates a commonality of interest, that describes the purpose, customers, products, markets, philosophy

**Goals = accomplishments to achieve**
– what is absolutely important and feasible, not what is desirable
– Structural changes, linked to weaknesses in the evaluation
– Remember that performance will be measured against strategic goals

Strategic goals -> outputs -> activities
Action plan

- tool for internal business management;
- tool to negotiate resources with government/donors

Structured document including:

- Core action plan:
  - Must be realistic. Focus on few priorities
  - Must take into account the ongoing statistical programme, activities in the NSDS and the changes needed
  - Detailed in the first 2 years, can be approximate in later years
  - Must cover a list of activities organized by outputs
    - Dependencies in activities must be identified for a better schedule

- Overall budget (Financing Plan)
- Calendar of censuses and surveys
- Advocacy-Communication Plan
- (M&E framework)
Key Challenges in the region

• Uncertain and inadequate financial resources;
• Limitedly skilled and demotivated human resources for developing agricultural statistics;
• Weak institutional and organizational processes;
• Weak and underdeveloped methodological processes;
• Inadequate IT and statistical infrastructure for collecting and analysing agricultural statistics;
• Inappropriate alignment of the statistical offer to demand (national policies and international requirements);
• Lack of adequate capacities to analyse data from a policy perspective;
• Limited access to existing agriculture data for users;
Conclusion: 10 essentials

1. Backed by political support, nationally led and owned;
2. Designed through a sound methodology, including M&E;
3. Mainstreamed into the NSDS (if it exists) national process;
4. Covering the whole agricultural and rural sector;
5. Policy and results based on quality fit for purpose;
6. Taking into account what is in place and international commit.;
7. Drawing on international statistical standards;
8. Setting out an integrated and realistic programme;
9. Funded by governments for its implementation;
10. Serving as a coherence framework for external assistance.
Thank you