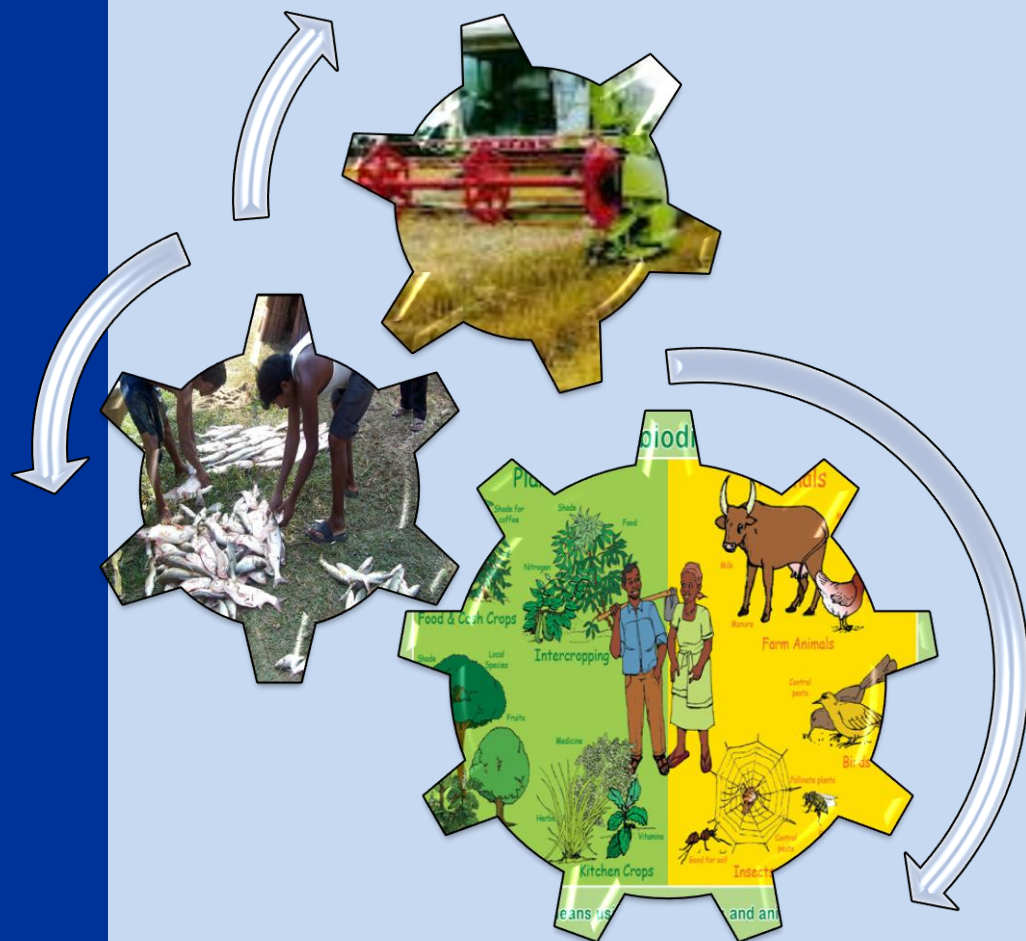


Draft



**Guidelines on addressing
Statistical Capacity in the**

**Country Programming
Framework (CPF)**



..... To change.....

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FOREWORD

These guidelines provide background and practical support to FAO Representatives, Officers in headquarters and decentralized offices of FAO and the Consultants engaged in the preparation of Country Programming Framework (CPF) of FAO. These guidelines have been written for development professional working in agriculture sector with a view to making them aware of the importance of agriculture statistics in the development process and to inform them about the current work being done by [FAO Statistics Division](#) with international partners on improving the quantity, quality and reliability of agriculture statistics with the ultimate objective of improving the policy making process and monitoring of [Millennium Development Goals \(MDGs\)](#), particularly those relating to hunger and malnutrition.

I take this opportunity to remind the users of this guide that today the agriculture statistics system is expected to provide not only historical time series data but also real time high frequency data on markets and the crop conditions to cope with challenges posed by Climate Change. The scope of statistics has widened to cover the gender dimension of agricultural and rural development, and the livelihood security issues of small farmers.

Pietro Gennari
Director
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Mainstreaming Statistics in the Agriculture Development Process

The official statistics is an essential instrument for guiding the development process in general and the agriculture development in particular for. It serves as an important aid in laying down the development priorities, analyzing the policy options, taking informed decision on choice of policy interventions as also for monitoring the results chain (output-outcome-impact) of the interventions.

Returns to investment in statistics are high. Consequences of not having good statistics are costly.

Better statistics lead to better policies, to better investments, and to better development outcomes.

Good quality statistics are needed as public good. These are required by governments, by people, by businesses and even the farmers for day-to-day decision making.

A developed statistical system can contribute to resource use efficiency in the results based management environment. There exists a two-way relationship between growth and level of economic development of a country and the level development of its statistical system. We thus emphasize mainstreaming of statistics in the development process: both throughout the planning and implementation process of development interventions, and across sub-sectors of crops, livestock, fishery and aquaculture and forestry.

Investments in development of statistics are needed to build institutional capacity to produce good statistics. The institutional capacity of a country is determined by existence of:

- **Statistical infrastructure** - enabling legislation, administrative infrastructure and manpower deployment etc.
- **Physical infrastructure** - office space, buildings, transport
- **Human capacity** - as measured by number and level of training
- **Statistical methods** - concepts, definitions, classification and techniques
- **Information technology** - hardware and software
- **Data access** - openness in data dissemination
- **Coherent and comprehensive improvement strategy**

Current Scenario and Players

Donor investments in statistics have not always been “system building”. This is perhaps due to lack of prioritization at country level and for want of a strategy rooted in local conditions to improve the statistics.

Experience suggests that the capacity of agriculture Statistics system has been deteriorating over time. A recent study indicated in Africa only about 34 percent of the countries are able to supply reliable information on agriculture production to FAOSTAT database which is the largest global database on agriculture. The situation on data on Trade, Land use, Agriculture machinery, Fertilizer and Pesticides is not better in Asia, South America and Near East. The island

countries in Oceania need special attention as well.

Agriculture Statistics has three distinct dimension, viz.

Economic: productive structure, production, trade etc;

Social: Labour, rural employment, welfare and incomes, gender issues etc.; and

Environmental: Resource use efficiency, pollution and environment conservation.

The entire gamut agriculture statistics, including those relating to *Crop, Livestock, Fisheries and aquaculture, Land and Water, and Forestry* on the above three dimensions comes from several statistical activities distributed across different ministries and departments at country level. Statistical activities in the agriculture domain include:

- **Agriculture Census** giving structure of productive resources (FAO recommends that each country undertakes a census at least once every 10 years);
- **Current (annual) surveys** on specific crop, livestock or fish to estimate the production and yields;
- Crop and livestock **monitoring reports** (monthly/quarterly) from concerned departments and or commodity boards;
- **Market information** on wholesale and retail prices of important commodities reported from major markets;
- **National Accounts Statistics** and Economic Accounts on Agriculture on agriculture sector coming from the National Statistics office.

Typically each government department at country level may have its own work plan, with or without a plan for development of agriculture statistics. The decentralization of statistical across sub-sectors is often seen a constraint in development of agriculture statistics in an integrated way. Very often the plan for development of statistics prepared by the National Statistics Office do not pay adequate attention to agriculture statistics.

FAO is an active partner in the consortium of international development institutions called [Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century \(PARIS 21\)](#). The consortium has been helping countries develop their National Strategies for Development of Statistics ([NSDS](#)) which provides a nationally owned road map and a plan for overall development of Statistics.

Given the cross-cutting nature of agriculture statistics, FAO is working with PARIS 21 to mainstream agriculture statistics in the NSDS process. [Paris 21 report \(November, 2011\)](#) provides the status of development of NSDS in 79 IDA lower middle income countries.

FAO, the World Bank and other international partners under the auspices of United National Statistics Commission have prepared the [Global Strategy to improve Agriculture and Rural Statistics](#) (FAO-WB, September 2010). The Global Strategy is the result of an extensive consultation process with national and international statistical organizations as well as with agriculture ministries and other governmental institutions represented in FAO governing bodies.

The purpose of the Global Strategy is to provide a framework for national and international statistical systems that enables them to produce the basic data and information needed to guide decision making in the twenty-first century. This Strategy is based on **three pillars**:

✓ **The first pillar** is the establishment of a **minimum set of core data** that all countries will collect to meet current and emerging demands.

The Strategy, foreseen as long-term effort, will be implemented through global and regional implementation plans to provide support to efforts of countries in improving agriculture statistics.

✓ **The second pillar** is the **integration of agriculture into national statistical systems** in order to satisfy the demands of policy makers. The integration will be achieved by:

The implementation at country level will begin with a Country Assessment to be carried out in all countries based on a [Standard Questionnaire](#). More in-depth assessments will be carried out in identified priority countries before designing intervention by way of capacity building and technical assistance.

- implementing a set of methodologies that includes the development of a *master sample frame for agriculture*,
- the implementation of an *integrated framework for agricultural census and surveys*,
- an *integrated database management system*.

As a first step towards implementation of the strategy to improve agriculture statistics at country level, identified country will be assisted to develop a National Agriculture Sector Specific Strategy or Plan for improvement of agriculture statistics which will try to integrate agriculture statistics in the NSDS.

✓ **The third pillar** is the foundation that will provide the sustainability of the agricultural statistics system through **governance and statistical capacity building**.

The national strategy or plan will serve as the basic guiding document for country-level activities for improving of agriculture statistics and as a guiding documents for resource partners interested in investing in agriculture statistics.

The Scope of FAO Intervention in Statistics

No matter what the government priorities are, due consideration should be given within the CPF to making available reliable statistics, at least for the selected priority areas for FAO support in the CPF.

The main goal of development process to maximize welfare. Through the policy interventions in the agriculture sector we not only work to increase production in an environmentally sustainable way but also try to improve the livelihoods of the rural populations, while giving due attention to gender related issues. Agriculture statistics support planning, implementation and monitoring of all such interventions.

While in some countries improving agriculture statistics may be an overriding priority and a comprehensive intervention may be needed in this area, in others a phased approach may be needed. It may be feasible to improve only a segment of agriculture statistics within the time frame and resources normally available for implementation of activities foreseen in the CPF. For instance, if livestock sector is a priority area identified for FAO support, the improvement in livestock statistics, if needed, should be considered for support through the CPF.

Typically, FAO has provided technical assistance and capacity building to a

member countries for improving agriculture statistics by way of:

- Assistance to planning and conduct of an Agriculture Census;
- Support to agricultural surveys;
- Development of a Market Information System;
- National Demonstration Centre workshops on Food Security;
- Technical training workshops on special topics such as: (1) Use of sampling techniques; (2) Building Food Balance Sheets and (3) Linking Population and Housing Censuses.

In partnership with PARIS 21 FAO has helped countries to build their National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS). Under the umbrella of the Global Strategy, capacity building activities will be undertaken on a number of new identified areas such as:

- Use of remote sensing and GIS technologies for crop monitoring and forecasting;
- Use of administrative sources for collection of agriculture statistics.

How to Proceed?

Due consideration should always be given to the requirement of reliable and timely statistics for policy making and monitoring results. The table below list the critical activities to be undertaken at different stages of CPF formulation process for building statistical capacity in the agriculture sector.

| CPF Phase | Activity | TIPS/ Key questions |
|-----------------|---|--|
| STARTING | <p>Preparation of a Concept Note</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify the key producers of agriculture statistics and resource partners interested in agriculture statistics • List of stake holders: include the representatives of agriculture wing of National Statistics Office and persons responsible for statistics in the Ministries/Departments of Agriculture, Crop, Livestock, Fisheries and aquaculture, Water resources, Land reforms etc. National Planning Commission, and Ministry of Finance should always be included. Some international development agencies may have keen interest in investing in agriculture statistics. • Gather the general impression about quality, adequacy and timeliness of statistics to support agriculture development among the policy makers and resource partners. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Reflect in the Concept Note, if major concerns are expressed about the status agriculture statistics as whole in the country as a potential area for FAO intervention. ➤ Validate statements about the general impressions about quality of agriculture statistics as part of Quality Assurance Mechanism for CPF. ➤ Clarify if the problem is of general nature and is wide spread across the statistical system or is confined to a specific type of statistics. For instance, crop statistics may be good but livestock statistics may need improvements. | <p>In many countries commodity/marketing boards on specific agriculture commodity are also engaged in production of statistics for their use.</p> <p>If an NSDS or Plan to invest in statistics exists in the country? If Yes, does it cover agriculture statistics also?</p> <p>Does there exist adequate Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) System to measure the results of CPF implementation?</p> <p>What is the source of data for M&E? Is the source reliable, timely and sustainable?</p> <p>Can we rely on national agricultural statistics system to supply reliable and timely data for M&E?</p> |

SETTING PRIORITIES

Carrying Out a Situation Analysis

- For agriculture Statistics this analysis should be carried out in two stages. First, before setting priority to know "if any area of agriculture statistics is a priority area". Second, "If there a need to build a statistics component in any of the other identified priority area?".
- Please check from the National Statistics Office and the Ministry of Agriculture, availability of results of any Assessments of Agriculture Statistics already carried out.
- Contact FAO Regional Statistician or the Statistics Division for information on past FAO work in the country and/or for guidance.

Check when was the last agriculture census conducted? Are these done at least once in ten years?

Are there adequate systems in place for estimation of crop, livestock and fish production?

What is the general assessment of agriculture statistics among stake holders?

Assessing the FAO Comparative Advantage

- FAO is the sole promoter of the World Programme for the Census of Agriculture (WCA) since 1950.
- The scope of WCA 2010 has been widened to include an integrated programme of agricultural census and surveys.
- FAO has established partnership arrangements with the World Bank, Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Japan International Cooperation Agency, Swedish International Development Agency, EU and US Department of Agriculture for promoting improvements in agriculture statistics in developing countries.

What are the weak areas in agriculture statistics?

| | | |
|---|---|--|
| <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">PROGRAMMING FOR RESULTS</p> | <p>Estimating the Resource Requirements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carrying out large scale statistical activities which involve field data collection are usually costly and require commitment of resources from the national government or resource partners. FAO support to these large scale activities is limited to providing technical assistance in planning and execution. Extended support is provided using UTF project supported by either the national government and/or a resource partner. • For the purpose of deciding the priority, rough estimates of resource requirements available with the government may be used. • Often, it may be possible to redesign the statistical activities within a given budget. Please consult the FAO Regional Statistician, if a priority activity is being discarded only for budgetary constraint. • FAORep should be able to provide an indication on resource partners' interested in funding statistical activities. | <p>Specialist may be able to redesign the statistical activities so as to fit within given budget using sampling techniques etc.. Such iterations to reach an optimal budget are done during the project formulation stage if a decision is already taken to undertake an activity such as agriculture census.</p> |
| <p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Draft CPF</p> | <p>Considerations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Past work of FAO in the sphere of agriculture statistics. • Are there other resource partners active in the country to support the process of development of agricultural statistics? There may be a need to coordinate FAO activities with them. A coordinated efforts leads to better results and makes feasible undertaking of such large scale activities which cannot be undertaken by any single potential resource partners. | <p>Normally, a TCP project is not approved on a subject on which the country has received technical assistance earlier.</p> |

Where to look for advice?

✓ Reference Documents

- Advocating for the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics: Country-level Toolkit (May, 2010):
- A guide to integrating agriculture statistics into National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS): FAO 2012 (under preparation)
- Global Strategy to Improve Agriculture and Rural Statistics (FAO-WB, 2010)
<http://www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-capacity/ess-strategy/en/>
- National Strategies for the Development of Statistics: Progress Report (Paris 21, November, 2011): http://paris21.org/sites/default/files/NSDS_report_nov2011.pdf
- NSDS Approach in Nutshell: <http://www.paris21.org/NSDS-approach-booklet>
- Standard Questionnaire for Country Assessment of Agriculture Statistics System (FAO, 2012):
http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/ess/documents/meetings_and_workshops/Resource_Partners_Oct2011/Country_Assessment.pdf

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