Global Strategy
IMPROVING AG-STATISTICS

First Meeting of the
Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)

Rome, 18-19 July 2013

RESEARCH PLAN WITHIN THE GLOBAL STRATEGY

Naman Keita
FAO Statistics Division

CONTENT

1. **Background on the Development of the Research plan**
   - **The Research plan in the Global Action Plan**
   - **How the Research component supports other technical components of the Action Plan?**
   - **Why a Research plan is needed?**
   - **How the priority research topics were identified?**

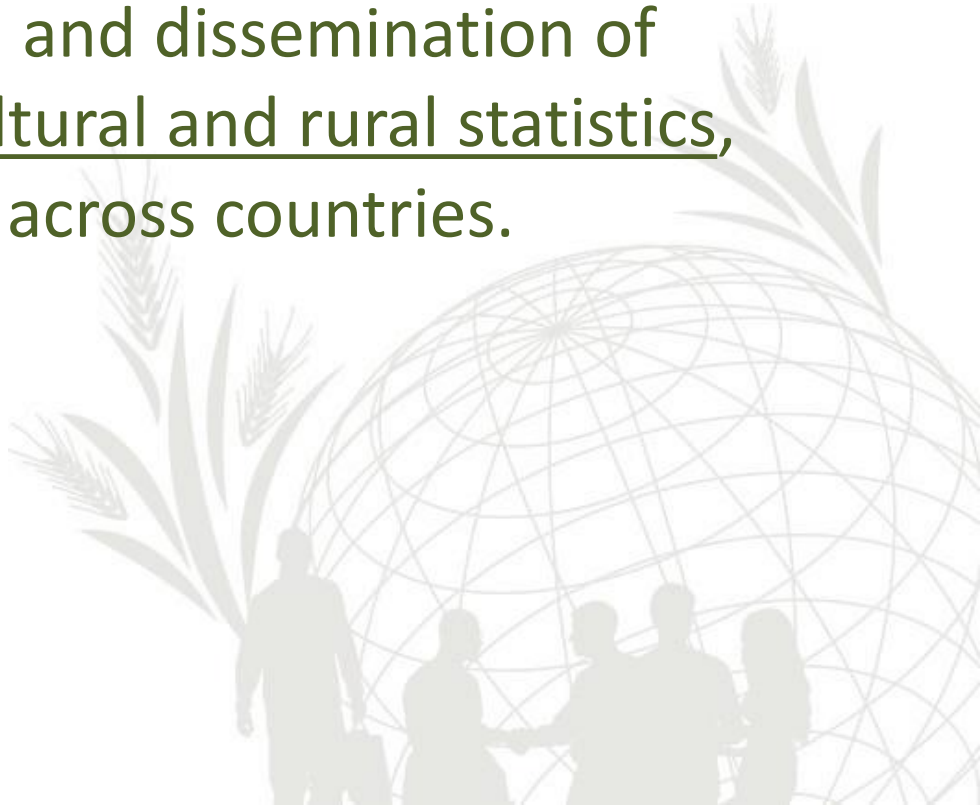
2. **Modalities of Implementation of the Research plan**
   - **Strategic approach, partnership,**
   - **Main bodies for implementation**

BACKGROUND ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESEARCH PLAN

Research Plan in the Global Action Plan (1)

PURPOSE:

to enable countries to develop sustainable statistical systems for the production and dissemination of accurate and timely agricultural and rural statistics, comparable over time and across countries.



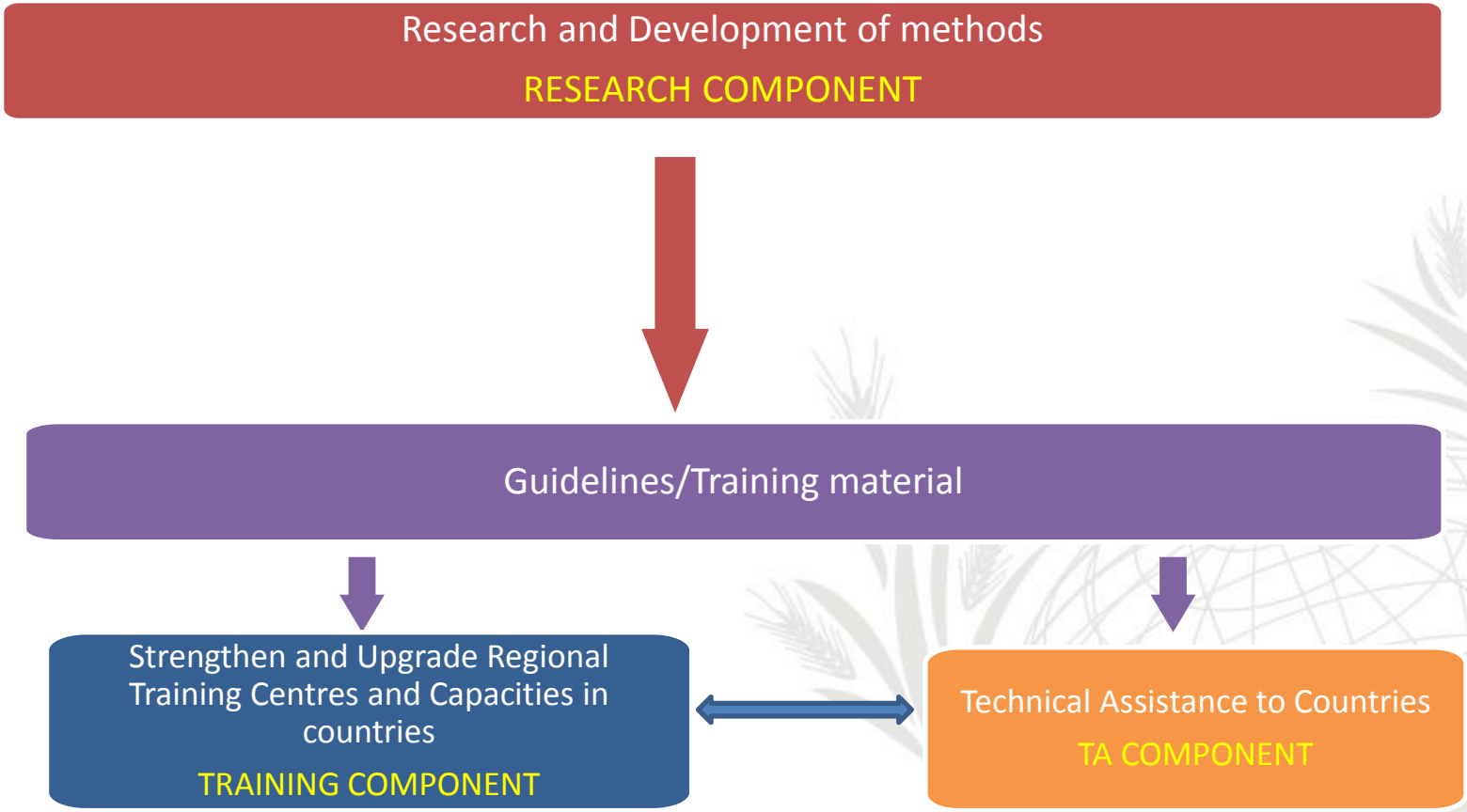
BACKGROUND ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESEARCH PLAN

Research Plan in the Global Action Plan (2)

- Country Assessment to identify priority needs for technical assistance (TA) and training
- **Three technical components:**
  - ✓ **Research**
  - ✓ Training
  - ✓ Technical assistance
- Governance mechanism
- Funding mechanism

BACKGROUND ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESEARCH PLAN

How the Research Component Supports Other Components?



BACKGROUND ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESEARCH PLAN
Why a Research Plan is Needed? (1)

Data on Crop

- In many developing countries: growing commercial and modern farms sub-sector in parallel with a large number of small subsistence farms sub-sector.
- Wide variety of agricultural practices in small farmers sub-sector: mix-cropping, continuous planting and harvesting on small and irregular shaped plots, etc...
- Lack of record keeping and non use of standard measurement units
- Most producers are also consumers (importance of self consumption)

Consequence: specific methodological challenges to accurately measure, basic variables: crop area, yield and production.

BACKGROUND ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESEARCH PLAN

Why a Research Plan is Needed? (2)

Data on Livestock

- Enumeration of nomadic and semi-nomadic livestock,
- Estimation of livestock products, especially with regards to small animals.

Data on Fishery and Forestry

- Estimation of fish production for in-land, traditional fishery and marine fishery.
- Estimation of edible forest products, fire wood production etc.

BACKGROUND ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESEARCH PLAN

Why a Research Plan is Needed? (3)

Data for Emerging Environmental Issues

- Data to explain to what extent agricultural activities are determined by the environment and the impact of external events
- Data to measure the use of agricultural products for bio-fuel etc.

Consequence: Quality of data on agricultural sector in many countries, particularly its accuracy, recurrently been questioned by data users.

BACKGROUND ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESEARCH PLAN

Past Efforts and Remaining Gaps

- 50's up to end 80's important efforts were made to develop tools and methods to address some of the specific challenges above

- 90's and 2000's: decline in efforts for methodological research despite some important publications: Decennial World Programme for Census of Agriculture, Multiple Frame methodology, Sampling methods for agricultural statistics (L. Kish) etc.

- However, methodological research effort was not at the level of challenges of changing data requirements and data needs to inform emerging issues and did not integrate new technologies, tools and statistical methods.

- Many basic publications were not updated to integrate new advances both in technology and statistical methods.

BACKGROUND ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESEARCH PLAN

Digital Revolution and Other New Opportunities

- New digital and mobile technology (geo-spatial/remote sensing, geo-positioning /mobile computing devices such as GPS, PDA, CAPI, Tablets etc.)

- Methodological advances successfully implemented in developed and developing countries that can be documented and up scaled to other countries in all regions

- Alternative and more efficient methods and tools relevant to developing countries context can be developed.

- Need for a comprehensive and integrated methodological research programme to support efforts to improve agricultural statistics → **RESEARCH COMPONENT**

SOME COUNTRY PRACTICES USING NEW TOOLS

BACKGROUND ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESEARCH PLAN

How Priority Research Topics were Identified? (1)

- **Compilation of all recommendations** for research topics from FAO Regional Statistical Commissions (countries) for the last 10 years on areas
- **Review by Stakeholders/Expert Conference** in Tunis in February 2010
- **Questionnaire Survey:**
  - Senior agricultural statisticians in countries
  - Senior International consultants with relevant experience
  - Experts from International and Regional Institutions with relevant experiences,
  - key academic and training institutions,
  - selected Development Partners

BACKGROUND ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RESEARCH PLAN
How Priority Research Topics were Identified? (2)

- **Expert Review Meeting** in Rome 13-14 September 2010 to validate, consolidate, prioritize and link to pillars of the Strategy. Criteria used:
  - Contribution of topics to implementation of Global Strategy recommendations
  - Thematic grouping of topics using expert knowledge
  - Use results of stakeholder surveys
- **Meeting with other FAO Divisions, JRC and other Research Institutions**

Result: 42 topics grouped under 7 thematic areas

- **Validation at ICAS-V meeting in Kampala, October 2010**

MODALITIES OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESEARCH PLAN (1)

Strategic approach and Partnership is needed since:

- All 42 topics identified cannot be implemented at the same time . Start with quick wins.
- Need for Partnership and use of wide range of expertise.
- Principles:
  - Technical coordination and supervision by FAO
  - Use of best expertise for a given topic
  - Transparent process and respect of FAO administrative rules

MODALITIES OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESEARCH PLAN (2)

Main structures for implementing the research plan

- Global Office with Research Coordinator: Overall responsibility for the Research Plan
- Scientific Advisory Committee: Key advisory role to ensure highest quality of research results
- Roster of experts and research institutions at global, regional and national levels to serve as resource base

MODALITIES OF IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RESEARCH PLAN (3)

The **Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC)** will be responsible for:

- providing technical advice to the Global Office on technical issues related to the Research Programme for implementing the Global Strategy.
- validation of the process and results of research activities and ensuring that best technical standards are respected.
- The SAC members, will be appointed by the GSC.
- They will be selected among internationally known experts in various domains of Agricultural Statistics methodology.

Scientific Advisory Committee, 18 and 19 July 2013

http://www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-capacity/ess-strategy/gs-meetings/sac/en/

THANK YOU