

GLOBAL STRATEGY FOR IMPROVING AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS:
GOVERNANCE ARRANGEMENTS FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION PLAN IN AFRICA

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In February 2009, the United Nations Statistical Commission endorsed the Global Strategic Framework for Improving Agricultural Statistics. The Strategy was developed in response to the declining quantity and quality of agricultural statistics and the need to provide data to support emerging data requirements mainly on bio fuels, the environment, global warming, and the requirement for the data systems to be integrated.

A Conference of Development Partners on the Global Strategy for Improving Agricultural Statistics: Implementation Plan for Africa held in February 2010 endorsed the idea of developing four separate components to the Strategy implementation plan for Africa, namely governance, technical assistance, training and methodological research components.

This paper will present the Governance component of this implementation plan. The Governance component aims to establish an institutional framework and coordination arrangements for the implementation of the Strategy. In particular, this component will provide support to the other components of the Strategy. The objectives, outputs and activities related specifically to this component of the Strategy will be presented in a results-based logical framework.

Provision will be made for the sustainability of project activities including (i) stakeholder ownership and participation in project development and implementation at all levels, (ii) use of existing structures of the African Statistical System, and (iii) mainstreaming project activities into the National Statistical System and leveraging donor support. Risks drivers and mitigating measures as well as assumptions will be given.

Monitoring and evaluation arrangements to assist with ensuring efficient and effective project implementation, communication and visibility needs as well as reporting results will be provided for. In particular, provision will be made for periodic reviews that involve donors, the recipients and implementing agencies to assess progress of the project and to decide on adjustments to the results matrix, the work plan and the budget, and other elements of the project, as appropriate. Review meetings will be organized at regional and other levels. Performance indicators, targets and milestones have been identified and will be used to know if implementation is on course. One important part of the monitoring and reporting system will be to learn and adjust during implementation.