Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics

Fred Vogel, World Bank Group

Presentation for Session 1:

MEETING OF RESOURCE PARTNERS IN SUPPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "GLOBAL STRATEGY TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL STATISTICS"

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Overview

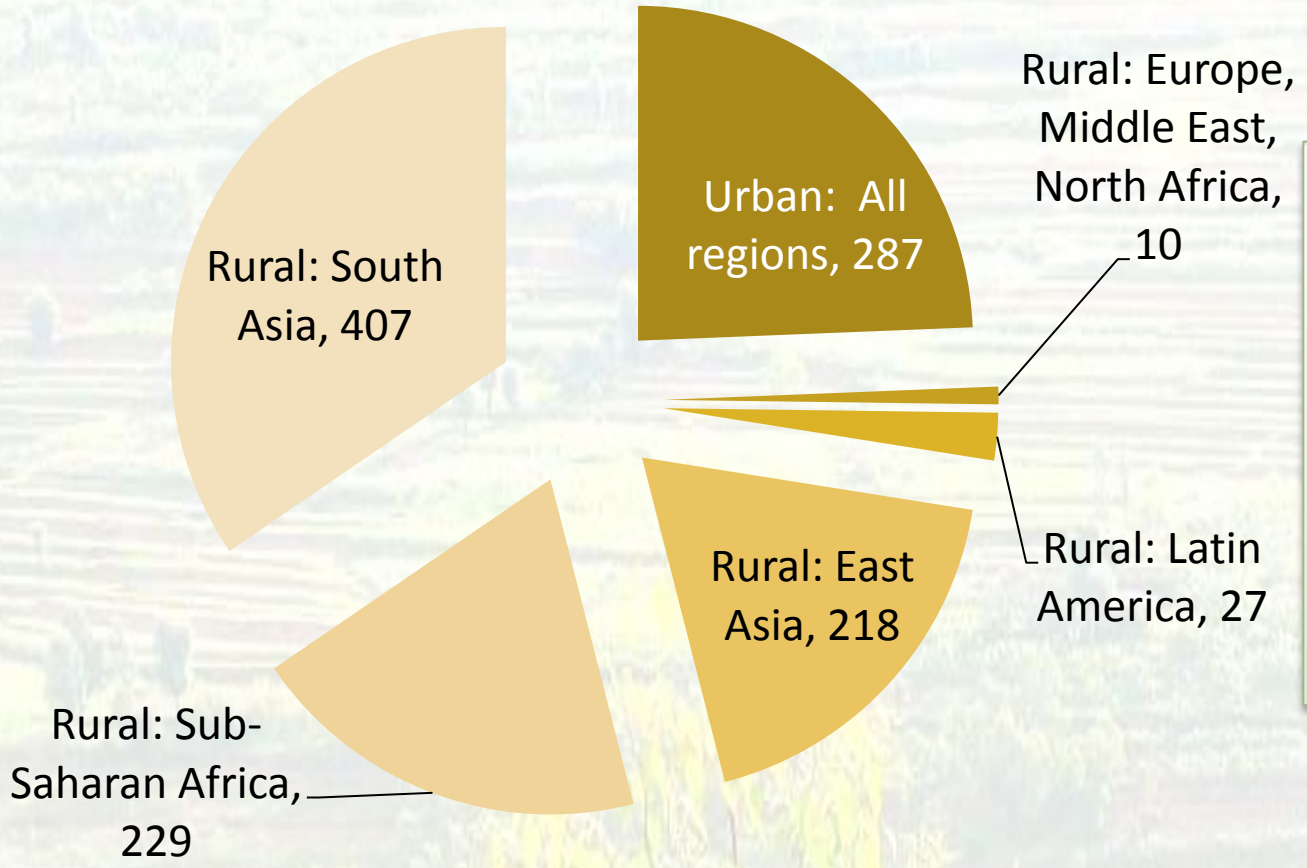
- Why was a Global Strategy Needed?
- Its Main Characteristics
- The Challenges
- The Approach and Looking Ahead

Agriculture reemerging on the global agenda

- **The food price spike in mid-2008, and its devastating impact on the poor, amplified the need to reinvest in agriculture in developing countries**
- **Examples of donor response:**
  - **G20: establish a multilateral financial coordination mechanism -- Global Agriculture and Food Security Program launched in April 2010.**
  - **World Bank Group assistance to agriculture and rural development increased from an average of 4.1 billion in fiscal years 2006-2008 to 7.3 billion in fiscal year 2009.**

Poverty reduction - 2.5 billion people depend directly on agriculture

Global extreme poverty 2002, millions



- 1.5 billion live in small farm households-(of which -85% <2ha)
- 75% of poor are rural and the majority will be rural to about 2040

Improving environmental sustainability

Important user of natural resources:

- 70-75% of fresh water resources
- 40% of land area
- 25-30% of greenhouse gas emissions

Many opportunities:

Sustainable farming systems and environmental services

(conservation farming, agroforestry, managing landscapes for climate resilience)

Inadequate availability of agricultural, rural and environmental statistics

- **Results are not timely-Most recent data are for 2009**
  - **Lack of timeliness of production data contributor to food price crisis**
- **Data for maize (Africa) and cattle (world) imputed for half of countries (more imputation less important items)**
  - **Weakens food security, food balances, etc that rely on production data**
- **All data sets are production oriented**
  - **No data on numbers of farms, agricultural households, rural households, and their characteristics**
  - **No capability to link the welfare of rural and agricultural households with agricultural production, and land use**

Consequences of basic data deficiencies

Without basic production data, fundamental policy decisions are compromised

- **Food Security-can we feed our citizens?**
- **How could food price crises be avoided?**
- **Trade policy-what positions should be taken on imports/exports?**
- **What policies lead to improved income from sales of crop and livestock?**
- **Did farmers and agricultural households benefit from the food price spikes?**
- **Are policies to increase agricultural productivity effectiv**e?
- Do policies to protect the environment affect agricultural productivity?

Consequences of emerging data deficiencies

Without connecting economic, social and environmental domains, emerging policy decisions cannot be effective

- How does growth in agricultural output affect poverty?
- What factors contribute most to growth in rural household income—that from agriculture or non agricultural activities?
  - What is the distribution of economic activity by gender?
- How do policies to increase crop and livestock production affect
  - The environment through deforestation, changes in water use and quality
  - Food security and poverty when products are diverted to Bio Fuels
- What is the impact of deforestation on rural and agricultural household income?
- How to absorb rural households into the economy as farms

Global Strategy

- **Developed through an extensive consultation process**
- **Endorsed by the United Nations Statistical Commission at its 41st Session in 2010**
- **Provides conceptual framework to meet emerging requirements—Three Pillars**
  - **Minimum set of core data-economic-social-environmental**
  - **Integration of agriculture into national system**
    - **Developing a Master Sample Frame**
    - **Integrating survey and data systems**
  - **Sustainability through governance, capacity building**

Key features

- **Broadening scope of agricultural statistics**
  - Adds social and environmental dimensions to traditional economic statistics (production-farm income, etc)
  - Includes aspects of rural households, forestry, fishery
- **Translating policy into statistical language**
  - Provides methodology to connect data on farm holdings to rural households and to the natural environment—land
- **Integrating agriculture into National Statistical System**
  - Perhaps the most significant outcome of the Global Strategy
  - Enables mobilization of resources
  - Promotes coordination of efforts and data harmonization

The challenges are significant

- **Integrate agriculture into National System**
- **Rebuild statistical capacity**
  - **Statistical methodology for sampling, survey design, data analysis**
  - **Data dissemination—advocacy**
  - **Uses of administrative and other data**
- **Implement new methodology and technology to meet emerging data needs**
  - **Master Sample frame, integrated survey**
  - **Remote sensing, Global Positioning Systems, etc**
- **Continuous feedback from data users**

An integrated approach is needed

- Governance bringing together NSOs and statistical offices from Ministry of Ag
- Governance at global and regional levels to support statistical capacity building
  - Well defined and documented statistical standards for methodology and technology to be used
  - Statistical Capacity building through NSDS—technical assistance and training
- User participation to determine content, scope, and coverage of national statistics
- Statistical methods for master frame; integrated data system

The way forward

- **Implementation of the Global Strategy to be guided by the Action Plan**
- **The Global Strategy is a long range plan just as was the implementation of the SNA**
- **Not everyone will start at the same place or move at the same pace**
- **The implementation should:**
  - **Build from the National Strategies to Develop Statistics (NSDS)**
  - **Be country and data user driven**

The World Bank will continue to support the Global Strategy & its implementation

- **Provides technical support to improve statistics**
  - **National Strategies to Develop Statistics**
  - **Statistical capacity building--STATCAP**
- **Integrating agriculture into World Bank Living Standards Measurement Study surveys**
- **Prepared Source book of Indicators with the Global Donor Platform for Rural Development (GDPRD) and FAO:**
  - ***"Tracking Results in Less-Than-Ideal Conditions"***
- **Principal author of *the Global Strategy to Improve Agriculture and Rural Statistics* in collaboration with UNSC and FAO**
- **Collaborated with preparation of the *Action Plan for Statistics* for consideration / endorsement at Busan HLF4. Will publish and later update Action plan if needed**
- **Act as member of the GSS Steering Committee or perform assessments, etc. (TBD)**

Thank you