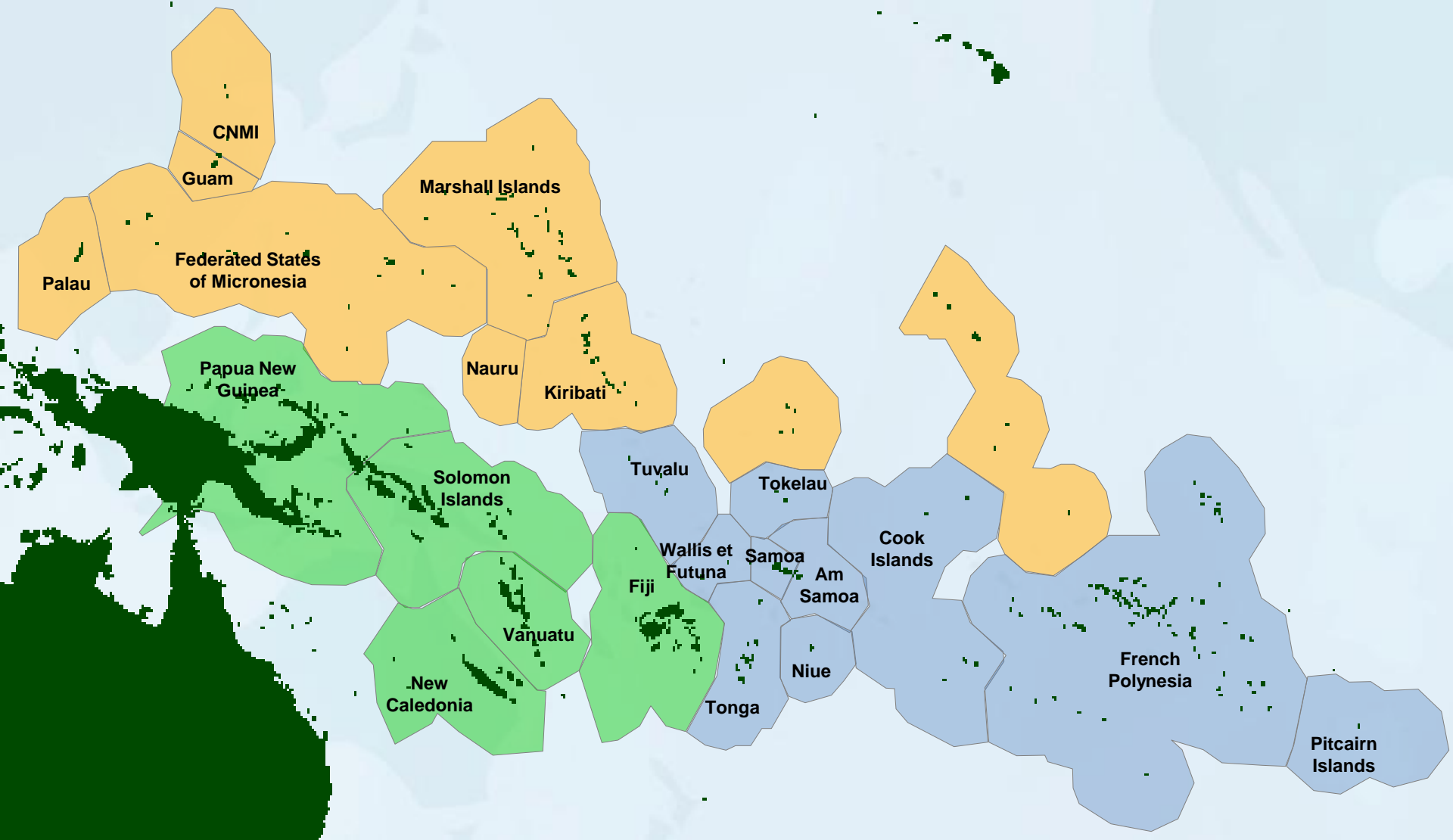**Meeting of Resource Partners in Support of the Implementation of the "*Global Strategy to improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics*"**
28 October 2011, Rome, Italy

Pacific Islands Agricultural Statistics and the *Ten-Year Pacific Statistical Strategy* (TYPSS) 2011 - 2020

Gerald Haberkorn
Manager, Statistics for Development Programme
Secretariat of the Pacific Community
Noumea, New Caledonia
geraldH@spc.int
(www.spc.int/sdp)

Pacific Island Countries and Territories

A sea of islands – multiple diversities

- 15 countries, 7 territories
- Population, 2011: 10 million (**PNG** 6,9 million -> **Pitcairn** 48 people)
- 1 country 2/3 of Pacific population <---> 8 countries < 20,000 pop
- 3 sub-regions: Melanesia, Micronesia, Polynesia
- <u>Substantial diversity</u>: bio-physical environment, economies, demography, cultural and political
  - o 0.1% of world population – 1/3 of world's known and documented languages (700)
- <u>Considerable similarities</u>:
  - o Small size of domestic markets
  - o Heavy reliance on imports
  - o Isolation/transport challenges and costs
  - o Dominance of public sectors
  - o Weak manufacturing base and high cost structure

A sea of islands – multiple diversities

Two other similarities

1. Three out of four Pacific Islanders (7,5 million) live in rural areas, the **vast majority sustaining their livelihoods in agriculture and fishing**, with most engaged in subsistence activities combined with modest market sales.

2. With the biggest **statistical data** and information **gap** across **key economic and social sectors** at present in **Agriculture (and Forestry)**, most countries and their development partners are flying blind in terms of policy development, planning, program delivery and monitoring of development progress in this sector.

Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy, 2011 – 2020

- To progress matters pertaining to improving access to critical development statistics, and associated indicators and information, the region has embarked on an ambitious *Ten Year Pacific Statistics Strategy 2011 – 2020*.

- **Rationale for its development**:
  Political pressure/mandate by Pacific Forum (region's heads of Government, including Aus and NZ) in its 2006 *Pacific Plan,* to
    - strive for greater harmonization of statistical concepts, measures, classifications and systems to provide comparable statistics across the region;
    - Develop a **core set** of development indicators across key sectors.

Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy, 2011 – 2020

Relevance to Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries

- The sustainable statistical collections of a core set of statistics in these sectors represents a key objective in Phase 1 of the *Pacific Statistics Action Plan* (2011 – 2014).

Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy, 2011 – 2020

Where are we heading, what are we aiming for?

- Given political mandate (Pacific Plan) on one hand, and considering what is manageable by largely small and resources-poor national statistical agencies, TYPSS' overall strategic focus is to pursue **regional solutions** for **national statistical demands and priorities.**

- **Four key priorities for us:**
  - which have tangible synergies with the *"Global Strategy to improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics,"*
  - and where we would **welcome closer collaboration with FAO**

Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy, 2011 – 2020

[1] Develop a core set of agricultural/forestry and fisheries indicators, undertake a data inventory (gap analysis) and NSS capacity assessment to collect the underlying statistics.

- **<u>Stage 1:</u> complete**
  15 core indicators developed for agriculture and forestry, and 19 for Fisheries, in consultation with key technical stakeholders

- **<u>Stage 2:</u> work in progress**
  Consultation with countries to validate identified/reported
  - Data values
  - Data gaps

Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy, 2011 – 2020
NMDI Data Audit : progress report

- ## Agriculture:
  - o Overall coverage across countries is shocking
    (considering sector critical for sustainable livelihoods of vast majority of PIC population)

  - o PNG, as largest/most resource-rich country in region has not had an agricultural census since 1963, and third-largest, Solomon islands never had one.

  - o Situation with fisheries statistics similar last year,: cross-regional coverage below 20%; recent access to Pacific-wide fisheries sectoral review , inclusive of targeted data-mining ,increased coverage to **78%.**

  - o Testing the water in Tonga 2 weeks ago, emulating Fisheries sectoral review, improved coverage of 15 key agricultural/forestry indicators from 13% to **67%.**

Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy, 2011 – 2020

- ## <u>Stage 3</u>: starting next month
  - Replicate Tonga approach in other countries
  - Provide key financial and technical stakeholders with opportunity for final review/comments
  - **Proposed collaboration with FAO:**
    Review our core set to ensure compatibility with FAO's *Menu of Indicators for Agricultural Statistics* as proposed by the "*Global Strategy to improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics.*"

Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy, 2011 – 2020
NMDI Data Audit : progress report

[2] Assist countries pursuing the development of National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) to integrate (mainstream) agricultural/rural statistics into this strategy

Proposed collaboration with FAO:
- With SPC working principally in partnership with PARIS-21 in the region, it would be beneficial for both parties here to leverage off FAO's experience in other countries.

Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy, 2011 – 2020
NMDI Data Audit : progress report

[3] Develop core agricultural/forestry/fisheries statistics module for inclusion in regular Household surveys, to produce

- o much needed sectoral baseline information, and

- o provide statistical evidence to make a business case for some countries pursuing fully-fledged Agricultural censuses.

Proposed collaboration with FAO:

- Given many competing demands for sectoral statistical collections, small island countries are unlikely to implement more comprehensive household survey programs than their current focus on HIES and DHS.

- Given obvious thematic synergies with HIES, seek **FAO technical advice** on **substance matters (core questions) and questionnaire design**, to ensure optimal statistical coverage with a limited number of questions.

Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy, 2011 – 2020
NMDI Data Audit : progress report

[4] Increase advocacy with Pacific island NSOs to include core agricultural census questions in their population censuses in the upcoming 2020 round of population and housing censuses.

Proposed collaboration with FAO:
- With FAO and UNFPA playing key roles in this area, and possibly also PARIS-21, **ensure agricultural statistics are mainstreamed into countries' national statistical systems** (and NSDS), recognizing that <u>Population and Housing censuses provide the statistical foundation</u> for Pacific Islands national statistical systems.

Thank you