



Asia and Pacific Commission on Agriculture Statistics

Dalat , Vietnam 8-12 October 2012

Report on the Expert Group Meeting on Cost of Production Statistics

Conclusions and follow-up

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Objectives of the work on CoP statistics

- Increase the **availability, quality and consistency** of CoP statistics
- Create the evidence base for policy decisions through a set of indicators on the costs and returns of agricultural activities
- Enable countries to identify efficient and environmentally friendly production practices
- Make CoP data available in a comparable and easy to access FAOSTAT domain



Background

- AFCAS 21st (10/2009) mandated FAO and IFPRI to study country experiences
 - **Case-studies** carried out in Mali, Zambia and Ethiopia
- AFCAS 22nd and EGM on CoP (11/2011)
 - CoP should be a **priority research topic** for Africa
 - **Best practices** should be identified
 - A **Handbook** and training materials prepared
- Work carried out since then:
 - Creation of a “**Friends of the Chair**” (FoC) Committee
 - **Questionnaire on country practices** in CoP statistics
 - Specific questionnaire on good practices to FoC
 - 2nd EGM to discuss the Handbook’s draft outline, country practices and next steps



Background

- Action Plan to implement the Global Strategy was endorsed at the 43rd session of the UNSC in 2012
- CoP were included in the list of priority research topics and in the Quick Wins
 - recommendations from Regional Conferences of the last 10 years on areas for methodological research
 - series of stakeholders meetings (final one due in Nov 2012)
 - Activities already started
- The 2nd COP was the first implementation step of the Global Strategy Research Plan



Research plan of the GS and the implementation of CoP work

1. Literature Review

2.2 Identify partners

2.3 Gaps Analysis

2.3 Develop methodologies
and good practices

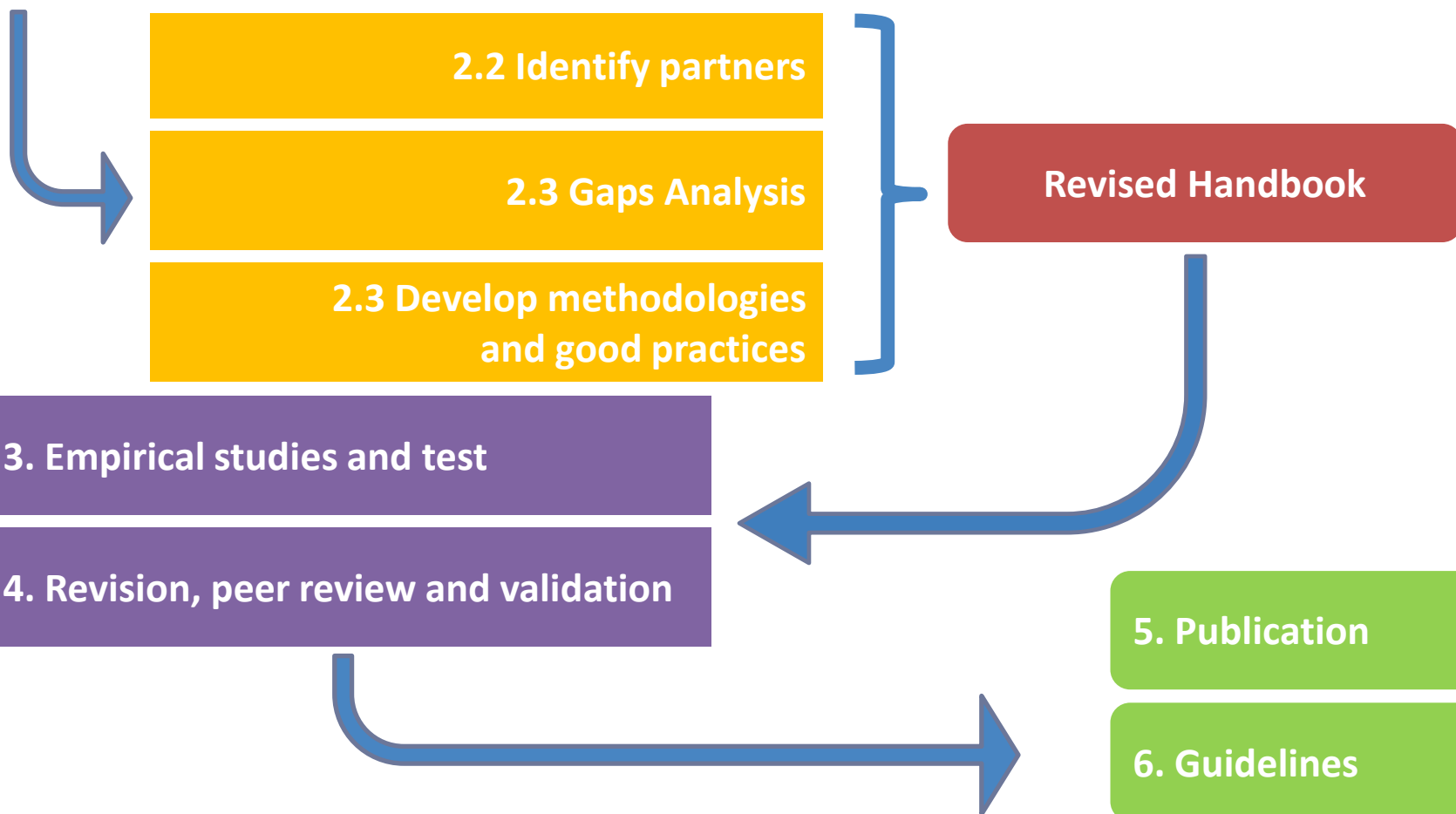
Revised Handbook

3. Empirical studies and test

4. Revision, peer review and validation

5. Publication

6. Guidelines





Current status

- Countries are at different levels of progress and have pursued different approaches, many efforts still evolving
- But also many commonalities, overlaps
- No single standard exists and no single standard is currently applicable
- Need to address gaps and document best practices
 - ➔ Considerable benefits to be had from a common approach
 - ➔ Handbook comes at the right time



Expert Group Meeting - Objectives

- Identify and agree on a list of **best practices** in:
 - Data collection (surveys, coverage, frequency, etc.)
 - Data compilation and processing (micro to macro, etc.)
 - Data analysis and relevant indicators

- Identify the **challenges** linked to the implementation of the best practices and propose solutions
 - Identify gaps
 - Identify technical capacity development needs

- Agree on a detailed structure for the **Handbook** on CoP statistics

- Agree on a list of priority **actions** and on a realistic **timeframe**



Expert Group Meeting – Topics discussed

- Uses and users of CoP statistics:
 - Evidence base for policy decisions
 - Evidence base for analytical studies
- Review of the questionnaires of country practices
 - Survey type, coverage (geographical, commodity), statistical units, frequency, aggregation, uses, processing
- Country case studies presented:
 - China, Indonesia, Philippines, Morocco, Uruguay ,USA, Zambia, Pakistan, India
- Special issues addressed: data comparability, quality and relevance
 - Income and costs of livestock production, costs of subsistence and smallholder production, imputed costs (labour, capital), data collection in the presence of illiteracy, survey design, etc.
 - Data compilation and dissemination: 7 experiences
- Handbook structure and next steps



Expert Group Meeting - Conclusions

The participants

- Stressed that CoP Statistics are relevant in all APCAS countries
- Stressed the need for a common set of guidelines for the compilation and presentation of CoP statistics
- Expressed their interest in contributing to the Handbook draft and peer review process (Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji, Indonesia, Malaysia, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Australia, Thailand)
- Stressed the need for a common software platform for the collection, compilation, analysis and dissemination of CoP statistics



Expert Group Meeting - Next steps

The participants agreed on the:

■ Method

- Focus on concrete methodological issues
- Focus on identification of gaps
- Involve an extended group of country experts in drafting manual sections, boxes, annexes, etc.

■ Process

- Field testing of the recommendations
- Revisions, peer review and validation

■ Time line

- First draft of the Handbook: end of March 2013
- Seconded draft: end of June 2013 (after experts' validation)
- Final draft: end of 2013



Data platform and Software

- Consistent requests for a CoP software
- Many applications are still desktop applications
- High license fees for commercial packages
- A specific project will have to be set up to develop a complete, but modular software package with:
 - separate data collection module
 - a web-based application for processing and dissemination, using on open-source packages

Overall conclusion:

- Considerable benefits from a consolidated approach, but need for funding



Questions and invitations to the Conference

- Review and advise on the conclusions, milestones and the timeframe agreed by Expert Group Meeting
- Support the development of the CoP Handbook, providing expert contributions and peer review.
- Provide the FAO Statistics Division with additional feedbacks on methodological gaps and development needs.
- Ask FAO and other potential donors to fund the development of an open-source software package to be available to all FAO member countries.



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Thank you