MYANMAR

IMPROVING
AGRICULTURAL
& RURAL STATISTICS
Global Strategy

Country Challenges

Myanmar is a country rich in natural resources, and the development of its agricultural sector is crucial for achieving food security and proper nutrition for the country. Approximately 61 percent of its labour force is employed in the agricultural sector and 17 percent of its land area is devoted to it. However, the statistics system for agriculture in Myanmar is highly decentralized and the country does not have a national strategy for the development of statistics, though one is currently being designed. Myanmar's administrative reporting system is the main source for agricultural statistics but this system has weaknesses. There is no statistical quality control mechanism in place, and there is a lack of coordination among institutions that deal with agricultural statistics. Statistical infrastructure and training facilities need significant improvement to supply and maintain capable human resources with the ability to use information and communications technology tools. Improvement in agricultural statistics' official dissemination throughout the country is also needed.

In Myanmar, about 17 percent of the land area is devoted to agriculture

Approximately 61 percent of Myanmar's labour force is employed in the agricultural sector

Global Strategy Solutions

An In-depth Country Assessment (IdCA) by the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Asia Pacific recommended a number of actions for Myanmar. Statistics related to agriculture must be improved in all major categories. Digitization of cadastral maps is in progress but needs be accelerated, as this is needed to improve data quality. Building an integrated system for agricultural statistics will help bring improvement to relevant and related statistics categories across the board. Finally, capacity of statisticians and other support staff should be improved through identifying and filling skills gaps, and training and hiring more experienced statisticians and support staff.
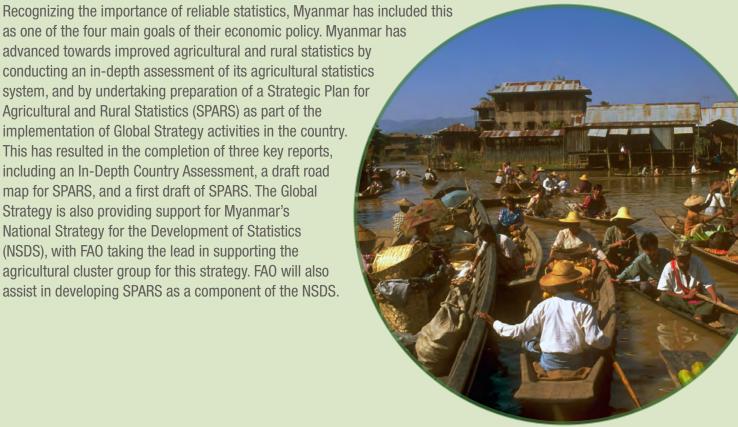
Current Country Work

The Global Strategy in Asia Pacific is collaborating with the Myanmar Department of Agricultural Land Management and Statistics (DALMS) and the Central Statistics Organization (CSO) to improve agricultural statistics through the following actions.

- Improve crop, livestock, fisheries and forestry, and environmental statistics
- Improve rural development statistics
- Improve national accounts statistics for the agricultural sector
- Develop an integrated system for agricultural statistics
- Build capacity for agricultural statistics through identifying gaps, training, education and support
- Develop a strategic plan for agricultural and rural statistics

Towards a Statistics Secure Future

Recognizing the importance of reliable statistics, Myanmar has included this as one of the four main goals of their economic policy. Myanmar has advanced towards improved agricultural and rural statistics by conducting an in-depth assessment of its agricultural statistics system, and by undertaking preparation of a Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS) as part of the implementation of Global Strategy activities in the country. This has resulted in the completion of three key reports, including an In-Depth Country Assessment, a draft road map for SPARS, and a first draft of SPARS. The Global Strategy is also providing support for Myanmar's National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS), with FAO taking the lead in supporting the agricultural cluster group for this strategy. FAO will also assist in developing SPARS as a component of the NSDS.

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