



**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS**  
**Terms of Reference for International Consultant**

<b>Vacancy Announcement No.</b>	<b>IRC2344</b>
<b>Deadline for Applications:</b>	31 July 2013
<b>Job Title:</b>	International Consultant, Country Statistical Capacity Assessment and Strategic Planning in Agricultural Statistics
<b>Division/Department:</b>	Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (RAP)
<b>Program/Project No:</b>	MTF/RAS/372/MUL "Asian Regional Component - Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics"
<b>Location:</b>	Missions will occur in 20 different countries over a period of five years
<b>Expected start date of assignment:</b>	Various. Each country will be covered by a separate contract
<b>Duration:</b>	Each country is expected to require 2-3 missions with a total duration of 5-8 weeks. When actually employed basis
<b>Reports to:</b>	<i>Name: Allan Nicholls                      Title: Regional Coordinator</i>

## **GENERAL DESCRIPTION OF TASKS AND OBJECTIVES TO BE ACHIEVED**

### **BACKGROUND**

The Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics is a project endorsed by the United Nations Statistics Commission (UNSC) and supported by FAO, World Bank and others. The Asia-Pacific Regional Action Plan for the project involves intensive work in 20 countries over five years to assist those countries to improve their statistical infrastructure and outputs.

The project aims at supporting selected countries to conduct a detailed assessment of the capacity of their national agricultural statistics system to meet user's needs, identify gaps and formulate a country proposal that will be the basis for Technical Assistance and Training under the regional action plan and for development partners support for agricultural statistics.

Therefore, FAO is looking for **International Consultants in Statistics** to assist with the detailed assessment and with preparations for a country proposal. The International consultant will work closely with agencies in the relevant country and with a National Consultant to undertake these activities. Preference will be given to consultants in the region, and those with experience in the relevant country.

The duration of the assignment for each country will depend on individual country circumstances, but is expected to range between five and eight weeks, usually involving three missions.

Countries identified for inclusion in 2013 are Bhutan, Indonesia, Samoa and Sri Lanka.

### **DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Under the overall operational supervision of the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (FAO RAP), with managerial supervision of the FAO Representative, and with general technical guidance of the Senior Statistician, FAO RAP and the Director ESS, the International Consultant, Country Statistical Capacity Assessment and Strategic Planning in Agricultural Statistics will work with the National Consultant, the National Strategy Coordinator and in close collaboration with other national staff.

He/she will assist national staff in assessing the agricultural statistics system according to FAO guidelines, preparing the groundwork for the country to develop a Sector Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics to be integrated into the National Strategy for Development of Statistics if any. In particular, through providing technical advice and guidance, he/she will support the National Strategy Coordinator to undertake and accomplish the following tasks:

**Using the results of the first stage of country assessment, the country profile derived from that assessment and the Framework for Assessing the Quality of Agriculture and Rural Development Statistics, conduct an In-depth Assessment of the agricultural statistics system:**

- Assess the availability and quality of the available data particularly the core data set defined by the Global Strategy using the Data Quality Assessment Framework, compare the findings with current and expected users' needs, and identify data gaps;
- Assess the resources and their availability (human - both staffing and training, financial and physical used for agricultural statistics activities);
- Identify the resource constraints to be addressed;
- Assess the principal agricultural data sources (survey, census and administrative records) in order to identify capacity gaps and technical gaps including the compliance with international and regional harmonisation standards to be addressed for more accuracy, reliability, timeliness, coverage of the data;
- Assess the institutional infrastructure notably the integration of the Agricultural Statistics System into the National

Statistical System using the recommended framework on building an integrated national statistical system and identify principal issues to be addressed;

- Identify strategies for the development of the national agricultural statistics programme in line with the global and regional implementation plans and lay out the priorities to be addressed;
- Produce the in-depth assessment report and identify the priorities to be validated by the national statistical stakeholders (users/producers).

**Prepare the groundwork for the Government to prepare a Sector Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics using the guidelines prepared by FAO:**

- Assist the NSO and relevant Ministry to understand the structure and requirements of a Sector Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SSPARS) and how it contributes to the National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS);
- Assist the NSO and relevant Ministry to understand the structure and requirements of a project proposal, for mobilisation of external donor funding, to provide key technical assistance inputs in support of the SSPARS;
- Prepare an end-of-assignment report.

**QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE**

*Candidates should meet the following:*

- Advanced University degree in statistics or agricultural statistics, agricultural economics, economics, or equivalent.
- At least seven years of experience with agriculture, forestry, and fisheries statistics and with statistical capacity assessment and strategic planning for agriculture statistics.
- Demonstrated experience working in the Asia Pacific Region.
- Background in Agricultural surveys and national agricultural systems desirable.
- Familiarity with FAO and the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics is a plus.
- Preference will be given to consultants within the region.

**HOW TO APPLY**

To apply visit the iRecruitment website at <http://www.fao.org/employment/irecruitment-access/en/> and complete the on-line profile. Please upload to your Documents section an application letter stating your expression of interest and qualifications as well as a CV.

**In order for your application to be properly evaluated, please ensure that all sections of the on-line profile are completed.**