



**Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations**

Report of the twenty-seventh session
of the
**ASIA AND PACIFIC COMMISSION ON
AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS**

**19–23 March 2018
Nadi, Fiji**



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**FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC (FAORAP)
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ACRONYMS

AGRIS	Agricultural Integrated Survey program
AFSIS	ASEAN Food Security Information System
AMIS	Agriculture Marketing Information System (AMIS)
APCAS	Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
BPS	Badan Pusat Statistik
CADIS	Center for Agricultural Data and Information System
CAPI	Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
FBS	Food Balance Sheets
FIES	Food Insecurity Experience Scale
FRA	Forest Resources Assessment
GIS	Geographical Information System
MIS	Management Information System
NAS	National Agriculture Survey
NSDS	National Strategy for the Development of Statistics
NSO	National Statistics Office
NWFP	Non-Wood Forest Product
PoU	Prevalence of Undernourishment
RAP	Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
RNR	Renewable Natural Resources
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SPARS	Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics
SPC	Pacific Community
SUA	Supply Utilization Accounts
SUSENAS	Indonesian National Socioeconomic Survey
TCP	Technical Cooperation Programme
UNFCCC	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
UNSIAP	United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific
USDA	United States Department of Agriculture Development
VHLSS	Viet Nam Household Living Standards Survey
WCA 2020	World Census of Agriculture 2020

LIST OF MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE 27TH SESSION OF APCAS

INTRODUCTION

The Commission

1. **Welcomed** Timor-Leste as a new member of APCAS and **noted** that Papua New Guinea and Tonga had requested membership.¹

AGENDA ITEM 5: FAO'S ACTIVITIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE STATISTICS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

The Commission

1. **Welcomed** the support of China and India, which loaned experts to support the planning of agricultural censuses in countries of the region.
2. **Called upon** other countries to share their expertise and experience in improving agricultural statistics in the region.
3. **Noted** that although APCAS member countries have higher response rates than the world average to FAO questionnaires, these rates are still low and require improvement, and that the Pacific sub-region has lower-than-average response rates to FAO questionnaires.
4. **Noted** the important uses made of FAO data, and the need for all countries to respond to the FAO questionnaire, even when it is to inform FAO of the lack of data collected.
5. **Recommended** that more help be provided to Pacific Island countries to complete FAO questionnaires.
6. **Encouraged** participating countries to become members of APCAS to share experiences of APCAS member countries.
7. **Noted** progress since the last APCAS meeting on developments to improve and simplify data collection and reduce the burden on countries in responding to FAO questionnaires.
8. **Recommended** that FAO and countries continue to improve coordination mechanisms, maintain up-to-date national focal point(s), endorse and implement new methodological guidelines, and peer-review data and methodologies.
9. **Recommended** that FAO pilot multiple-mode data collection, such as online questionnaires, and that a few member countries volunteer to pilot new data sharing technologies with FAO.

AGENDA ITEM 6.1: MONITORING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs) RELATING TO THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SECTOR

¹ Papua New Guinea and Tonga became APCAS members on 14 March 2018 and 12 March 2018, respectively.

The Commission

1. **Noted** that a custodian agency is assigned for each SDG indicator, with FAO assigned as the custodian agency for 21 of the 232 SDG indicators and a contributing agency for an additional four.
2. **Encouraged** International Organisations to better coordinate their efforts in SDG monitoring and encouraged countries to always involve the relevant custodian agency whenever approached by other International Organizations.
3. **Noted** that the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 is country-driven; acknowledged the need and importance for countries to align their national indicator framework to the global SDG indicator framework; and **recommended** that member countries work towards this alignment.
4. **Noted** that some countries in the sub-region are already in the process of alignment.
5. **Noted** the status of each of the indicators under FAO custodianship, and the types of work performed by FAO in terms of methodological development and technical support to countries.
6. **Noted** that FAO is establishing partnerships with other UN agencies to strengthen country assistance, and is also actively seeking donor funding to scale up capacity-development support.
7. **Expressed** its appreciation to FAO for its efforts in securing funds for capacity development.
8. **Encouraged** member countries to make official requests to FAO, through their FAO country office, on the specific component of the Umbrella Programme for SDG monitoring for which they would like to receive technical assistance.

AGENDA ITEM 6.2: MONITORING SDG 2: END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION, AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE

The Commission

1. **Encouraged** countries to strengthen the indicator framework for monitoring SDG 2 and to adopt the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) module in nationally representative surveys.

AGENDA ITEM 7.1: PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE GLOBAL STRATEGY TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL STATISTICS

The Commission

1. **Noted** the two main conclusions of the progress in implementation of Regional Action Plan for the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics: firstly, that there had been significant developments of main methodologies in the field of agricultural statistics; and secondly, that

technical assistance and training had been provided for a limited number of cost-effective methodologies, thus creating the need for further efforts in a second phase of implementation of the Global Strategy.

2. **Noted** that two volunteers from Asia and the Pacific region were also requested to contact the Global Office directly in order to join the task team that will prepare the second action plan of the Global Strategy.
3. **Proposed** a number of possible issues for further work in the second phase of the Global Strategy, including remote sensing, crop forecasting and the need to integrate technical assistance for collecting data to compile SDG indicators in the Regional Action Plan.
4. **Recommended** that FAO pursue the implementation of the second phase of the Global Strategy, which should focus on dissemination, provision of technical assistance and training on methodologies and tools developed under the first phase.

AGENDA ITEM 7.2: STRATEGIC PLAN FOR IMPROVING AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL STATISTICS (SPARS)

The Commission

1. **Advised** member countries which have not yet developed a SPARS to develop one reflecting national needs and international requirements, particularly related to the SDGs; for countries that have already completed a SPARS, efforts should be made to expedite its endorsement by the government and engage in advocacy for its implementation.
2. **Noted** the request to FAO for continued advocacy for funding and implementation of already completed SPARS.

AGENDA ITEM 7.3: PROGRESS IN ADOPTION OF COST-EFFECTIVE METHODOLOGIES DEVELOPED UNDER THE GLOBAL STRATEGY

The Commission

1. **Advised** that FAO should continue work on improving the methodology of data collection for estimation of cost of production of various types of agricultural commodities.

AGENDA ITEM 8: STATUS OF AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERY STATISTICS IN THE PACIFIC

The Commission

1. **Recommended** that a Working Group for Pacific Island Countries be set up to address specific issues and challenges of the region and approved its Terms of Reference.

2. **Acknowledged** the nomination of Fiji as the Chair and Tonga as the Vice-Chair of the Working Group.
3. **Noted** that the Pacific Sustainable Development Indicators cover a subset of 132 priority indicators from the full set of SDG indicators, including 12 of the 21 indicators for which FAO is the custodian agency
4. **Noted** that there is a need to periodically review the set of SDG indicators selected by Pacific Island countries, keeping in mind the developments at national and global levels.

AGENDA ITEM 9.1: PLANNING OF AGRICULTURE CENSUSES AND SURVEYS

The Commission

1. **Noted** the availability of technical assistance to countries for the Agricultural Integrated Survey (AGRIS) programme and invited countries to indicate their interest in AGRIS and make associated commitments to be considered.
2. **Noted** the development of Volume 2 of the World Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020) and **recommended** its use as a reference document for designing and implementing the new round of censuses in the region.
3. **Recommended** that member countries undertake at least one agriculture census during the period 2016-2025 and provide funding for it in their budget.
4. **Recommended** that FAO support countries in resource mobilization to ensure the implementation of censuses in the region.

AGENDA ITEM 9.2: USE OF MASTER SAMPLING FRAMES

The Commission

1. **Noted** the methodology for improving the administrative reporting system for rice in Lao PDR, the expected benefits from the new procedure, implementation issues in pilot tests to date, and the next steps.
2. **Noted** that members expressed interest in the dot-sampling methodology and its possible application in their collections.

AGENDA ITEM 9.3: USE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR CENSUS AND SURVEYS

The Commission

1. **Recommended** that member countries consider using new technologies such as Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing (CAPI), drones and remote sensing, in their agricultural censuses and surveys.

AGENDA ITEM 10: SUB-SECTOR STATISTICS RELATED TO CROPS, LIVESTOCK, FORESTRY AND FISHERY

The Commission

1. **Noted** the new efforts of FAO on agri-environmental and climate change statistics in support of national analysis and international data reporting, including for the SDG and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) processes.
2. **Recommended** that FAO support countries to strengthen their capacities to produce environmental statistics.

AGENDA ITEM 11: AGRICULTURAL MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEM IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The Commission

1. **Noted** the disaggregation of Asia from the Pacific in FAOSTAT.

REPORT OF THE TWENTY-SEVENTH SESSION OF THE ASIA AND PACIFIC COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

INTRODUCTION

1. The Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS) is a statutory body of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). APCAS brings together senior statistics officials from FAO member countries of Asia and the Pacific region, who are responsible for the development of agricultural statistics in their respective countries. They review the developments in their agricultural statistics systems since the last session and exchange ideas with experts from FAO and other organizations on the state of food and agricultural statistics in the region. FAO uses this occasion to inform the member countries about its activities during the preceding biennium, particularly in Asia and the Pacific region. The prominent themes on the Agenda of the Twenty-seventh Session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS27) were Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals, Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics and developing an Integrated System of Agricultural Census and Surveys.

2. The Fijian Government hosted APCAS27, convened by FAO in Nadi, Fiji from 19 to 23 March 2018. The session was attended by 87 participants, including 52 delegates from 20 APCAS member countries and observers from nine countries and four organizations. The complete list of participants can be found in Appendix B.

3. The Commission welcomed Timor-Leste as a new member of APCAS and noted that Papua New Guinea and Tonga had requested membership.²

OPENING SESSION

4. Following a traditional Kava³ ceremony, Mr David Kolitagane, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fiji, welcomed all participants to Nadi and expressed the Fijian Government's gratitude to FAO for accepting Fiji's offer to host the session. Mr Kolitagane thanked FAO for the support provided to organize the session. He noted that APCAS has provided strong support for the development of agricultural statistics in Asia and the Pacific region.

5. On behalf of the outgoing APCAS Chair, the significant improvements made to agricultural statistics in the region and the impact APCAS has had on the host country and the region in general were acknowledged by Mr Chencho Dukpa, Chief Agriculture Officer, Renewable Natural Resources (RNR) Statistics

² Papua New Guinea and Tonga became APCAS members in March 2018.

³ A traditional ceremony in western Oceania to welcome the guests.

Division, Directorate Services, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Bhutan. Mr Dukpa also expressed his sincere appreciation to the Ministry of Agriculture, Fiji, for hosting the session and was confident that the 27th session would be a success.

6. Mr Pietro Gennari, Chief Statistician of FAO, addressed the Commission and thanked the Fijian Government for hosting this session. He noted the increased importance of and demand for accurate data, particularly in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the need for innovative approaches to bridge data gaps. Collaborative mechanisms such as *The Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics* and South-South cooperation were highlighted as examples. Mr Gennari also noted the need for inter-governmental and intra-governmental agencies to work more closely together. He thanked all presenters and wished participants a successful meeting.

7. Delivering the Inaugural address to the Commission, the Honourable Faiyaz Koya, Minister of Industry, Trade, Tourism, Land and Mineral Resources, Fiji welcomed delegates to Fiji and stressed the importance of the Commission in helping to promote the improvement of agricultural statistics. He noted that statistics play an important role in understanding and improving issues such as food security. He also noted the strong role that agriculture plays in Asia and Pacific countries and the need to build sustainable agricultural statistics systems. He expressed his sincere thanks to the organizers for the opportunity to open such an important event, and to the Commission for accepting the offer from Fiji to host the 27th APCAS session.

8. Mr Mukesh Srivastava, APCAS Secretary and Senior Statistician, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, thanked the Fiji Government for its dedicated work in making this event successful. He also thanked officers of FAO for their assistance in formulating the agenda, preparing papers and supporting the organization of the event. Mr Srivastava also introduced Ms Sangita Dubey, Senior Statistician of FAO, and Ms Rasmiyya Aliveya, Statistician, FAO sub-regional office for Pacific Islands, who would serve as Assistant Secretaries in APCAS27.

9. All speeches delivered in the opening session are provided in Appendix D.

LAUNCH OF PACIFIC STRATEGIC PLAN FOR AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERIES STATISTICS

(Item 4 of the Agenda)

10. This agenda item was moved to be part of the Opening Session at the request of the Pacific Community (SPC). Ms Audrey Aumua, Deputy Director-General, Pacific Community, and Mr Mukesh Srivastava, Senior Statistician, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, formally launched the Pacific Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics.

11. Ms Aumua informed the Commission that the strategy document will help guide the development of agricultural and fisheries statistics in the Pacific Small

Island Developing States and assist in addressing the demands for data required to monitor the SDGs.

ELECTION OF CHAIR, VICE-CHAIR AND DRAFTING COMMITTEE

(Item 2 of the Agenda)

12. On behalf of the outgoing Chair, Mr Chencho Dukpa, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Bhutan, presided over the election of the Chair and Vice-Chair. Fiji was unanimously elected Chair of the 27th APCAS Session, represented by Mr David Kolitagane, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fiji. Indonesia was elected Vice-Chair, represented by Ms Leli Nuryati, Deputy Director of General Affairs, Centre of Data and Information Systems, Ministry of Agriculture, Indonesia.

13. The Commission constituted a Drafting Committee, chaired by Mr Savanh Hanephom (Lao PDR) with Ms Sera Bose (Fiji), Mr Chandramani Sharma (India), Ms Anna Astrid (Indonesia), Mr Birendra Kayastha (Nepal) and Ms Sarah Hoffman (USA), as members.

ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

(Item 3 of the Agenda)

14. The Commission adopted the agenda (Appendix A). Appendix C provides a list of documents, and Appendix E provides a list of member countries of the Commission as of March 2018.

FAO'S ACTIVITIES IN FOOD AND AGRICULTURE STATISTICS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, AND FOLLOW-UP TO THE RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION

(Item 5 of the Agenda)

15. The APCAS Secretary introduced APCAS/18/5.1, "Overview of FAO activities in the Asia and Pacific region and follow-up of the recommendations of the 26th session of APCAS," and provided a brief description of the main activities undertaken since the last APCAS. The Commission took note that in the two years since the last APCAS, a number of normative and project-related activities were undertaken, with a significant increase in FAO regional and national activities in the area of agricultural statistics. In relation to APCAS, the Commission was notified that the APCAS26 report had been published and that the Secretary had been involved in preparations for APCAS27. The Commission was asked to note that the paper APCAS/18/5.1 provided detailed information about follow-up actions taken on the recommendations of the last APCAS.

16. The APCAS Secretary highlighted the constraints of suitable, available and qualified consultants in the region to provide technical assistance to countries. The Commission welcomed the support of China and India, which

loaned experts to support the planning of agricultural censuses in countries of the region. The Commission also called upon other countries to share their expertise and experience regarding improving agricultural statistics in the region.

17. In the second presentation of the session, Ms Sangita Dubey, FAO Senior Statistician, introduced APCAS/18/5.2, “Issues in the Collection of FAO Data”. The presentation outlined the objectives and challenges of FAO data collection activities. The Commission noted that although APCAS member countries have higher response rates than the world average, these rates are still low and require improvement, and that the Pacific sub-region has lower-than-average response rates. The Commission also noted the important uses made of FAO data, and the need for all countries to respond, even when it is to inform FAO of the lack of data collected.

18. The Commission also commented that the FAO questionnaires are very technical and are not necessarily easy to complete, and recommended that more help be provided to Pacific Island countries to complete FAO questionnaires and encouraged participating countries to become members of APCAS to share experiences of APCAS member countries.

19. The Commission noted progress since the last APCAS meeting on developments to improve and simplify data collection and reduce the burden on countries. These include harmonized questionnaire mail-outs, improved consistency and quality through the establishment of corporate standards for questionnaires, and the reduction of duplicate data requests in different FAO questionnaires.

20. To improve response rates to FAO questionnaires and questionnaire completion rates, the Commission endorsed the following recommendations:

- FAO and countries continue to improve coordination mechanisms, maintain up-to-date national focal point(s), endorse and implement new methodological guidelines, and peer-review data and methodologies.
- FAO pilot multiple-mode data collection, such as on-line questionnaires, and a select few volunteers to pilot new data-sharing technologies with FAO.

MONITORING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS RELATING TO THE FOOD AND AGRICULTURE SECTOR

(Item 6.1 of the Agenda)

21. Mr Pietro Gennari, FAO, presented APCAS/18/6.1.1, “The Global SDG indicators process and FAO’s role in monitoring the SDGs”. The Commission was informed that the Global Indicator Framework to monitor the 2030 Agenda was endorsed last year by the UN Statistical Commission and subsequently by the UN General Assembly, and the Commission was reminded that these processes are country-driven. About 70 SDG indicators still do not have an international agreed methodology (ranked as Tier III indicators), and work is ongoing to upgrade these indicators in the near future.

22. The commission noted that a custodian agency is assigned for each SDG indicator, with FAO assigned custodian agency for 21 of the 232 indicators and a contributing agency for an additional four. Despite this global arrangement, coordination among UN agencies is not always perfect and there are situations in which countries are approached to work on certain indicators by an organization other than the custodian agencies. The Commission encouraged international organizations to better coordinate their efforts in SDG monitoring and encouraged countries to always involve the relevant custodian agency whenever approached by other International Organizations.

23. The Commission noted that the Sustainable Development Agenda 2030 is country-driven and the need for countries to align their national indicator framework to the Global SDG Indicator Framework. Commission members were invited to contact FAO to request technical assistance for assessing data gaps, reviewing the list of national SDG indicators and supporting their alignment with the Global SDG Indicator Framework.

24. The Commission acknowledged the importance of aligning national SDG indicators with the Global SDG Indicator Framework and recommended that member countries work towards this alignment. Furthermore, the Commission noted that some countries in the region are already in the process of alignment.

25. The Commission was informed of a number of issues related to global reporting which still need to be addressed in order to ensure that countries' progress in achieving the SDG targets are visible in regional and global monitoring reports and that inconsistencies between national and international databases are minimized.

26. The Commission noted the status of each of the indicators under FAO custodianship, and the types of work being done by FAO in terms of methodological development and technical support to countries.

27. Mr Pietro Gennari, FAO, presented APCAS/18/6.1.2, "Scaling up capacity development support for SDG monitoring", in which he outlined a wide range of capacity development initiatives. These initiatives included the recent launch of eight e-learning courses designed to reach out to potential users and to increase the number of experts on compiling the SDG indicators. At the regional level, an SDG workshop held in Bangkok in September 2017 resulted in the development and approval of a Technical Cooperation Programme (TCP) to support specific aspects of capacity development in 12 countries.

28. The Commission took note that a SDG Communication and Data dissemination platform has been published at <http://www.fao.org/sustainable-development-goals/indicators/en/> to provide users with data, guidelines and capacity development initiatives for the SDG indicators under FAO custodianship.

29. The Commission noted that FAO is establishing partnerships with other UN agencies to strengthen country assistance and is also actively seeking donor funding to scale up capacity development support. The Commission took note of a multi-donor umbrella programme for addressing the remaining data and capacity gaps of the national institutions responsible for computing and disseminating the SDG indicators. The umbrella programme offers a

comprehensive menu of specific capacity development activities, organized in five main modules: assessment of data gaps and alignment of national SDG indicators to the Global Indicator Framework; methodological development and testing of the remaining Tier III indicators; implementation of cost-effective cross-cutting data collection tools; improvement of the capacities to analyse and use SDG indicators in decision-making; and implementation of the methodologies recommended by FAO for the compilation of the SDG indicators.

30. The Commission expressed its appreciation to FAO for its efforts in securing funding for capacity development. The Commission encouraged member countries to make official requests to FAO, through their FAO country office, on the specific component on which they would like to receive technical assistance.

31. The document APCAS/18/6.1.4 “Questionnaire on country assessment of capacity to report on SDG indicators” was distributed to members for information. The Commission was informed that this questionnaire would be sent to countries later this year.

32. The document APCAS/18/6.1.5 “Strengthening the capacity for monitoring food security and sustainable agriculture in the context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2 and 12 (Regional TCP)”.

MONITORING SDG 2: END HUNGER, ACHIEVE FOOD SECURITY AND IMPROVED NUTRITION, AND PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE AGRICULTURE (Item 6.2 of the Agenda)

33. Mr Abdul Sattar, FAO, presented APCAS/18/6.2.1, “Monitoring SDG target 2.1 - Methodological development and new capacity development initiatives related to food insecurity measurement”. He described the theory, definitions and justifications of the SDG indicator 2.1.1 on the Prevalence of Undernourishment (PoU), as well as the method of derivation and the data sources needed, drawn mainly from household surveys and food balance sheets. Furthermore, the Commission was informed about the challenges in estimating the PoU.

34. The Commission was then provided with similar information on SDG indicator 2.1.2 on the Prevalence of Moderate or Severe Food Insecurity based on the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) and was informed of a package of tools and training materials developed by FAO to enable the use of FIES to measure indicator 2.1.2. For global comparison, the FAO Voices of the Hungry project developed an international scale based on data from 150 countries collected through the Gallup World Poll. Furthermore, FAO translated the FIES module comprising eight simple questions into 200 languages and dialects.

35. The next three papers described country implementation of SDG 2 food security indicators. Ms Anna Astrid, Indonesia, presented APCAS/18/6.2.2, “Learning experience of trend analysis of estimating PoU using SUSENAS data”, and described the Indonesian experience and information about the basic method of estimating the PoU using data from the Indonesian National Socioeconomic Survey (SUSENAS) household survey. The main challenge

faced during analysis of the data concerned accurately estimating calorie consumption, largely due to the use of non-standard units of measurement for food away from home, and changes in coverage of food items over time. She noted that efforts to overcome the challenges are ongoing.

36. Ms Do Thi Thu Ha, Viet Nam, presented APCAS/18/6.2.3, “Implementation of the Food Insecurity Experience Scale (FIES) module in the 2018 Viet Nam Household Living Standards Survey (VHLSS)”. Ms Ha described the technical considerations related to the inclusion of FIES in the VHLSS, particularly related to the translation of tools and training materials, training of field staff and costs of field enumeration, noting that there were some difficulties with instructions for completing questionnaires, which needs to be addressed. She proposed that FAO continue to assist enumerators, assist with analysis and support the selection of sample households.

37. Mr Samson Kanamoli, Solomon Islands, presented APCAS/18/6.2.4, “Challenges for engagement of FIES (Food Insecurity Experience Scale)”. The Commission heard that the 2017 National Agriculture Survey (NAS) added the FIES module, which was analysed and a preliminary report prepared with help from FAO and SPC experts. The Commission was informed that the NAS covered only households engaged in farming activities and is not representative of the whole population. The challenges, issues and key actions needed to be able to derive suitable FIES estimates were outlined.

38. The Commission encouraged countries to strengthen the indicator framework for monitoring SDG 2, in particular adoption of the FIES module in the nationally representative surveys.

PROGRESS IN IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL ACTION PLAN FOR THE GLOBAL STRATEGY TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL STATISTICS

(Item 7.1 of the Agenda)

39. Mr Christophe Duhamel, Global Office of the Global Strategy, presented APCAS/18/7.1.1, “Progress in implementation of Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics: Availability of research outputs and next steps”. The presentation described the research outputs, handbooks and guidelines produced to date by the Global Strategy and noted two main conclusions: firstly, that there had been significant developments of main methodologies in the field of agricultural statistics; and secondly, that technical assistance and training had been provided for a limited number of cost-effective methodologies, thus creating the need for further efforts in a second phase of implementation of the Global Strategy.

40. The Commission was informed that the 49th UN Statistical Commission endorsed the preparation of a second action plan, with a focus on implementing cost-effective methods at country level. A task team will prepare this plan for presentation to the Global Steering Committee in November. The Commission was informed of some basic considerations for the second phase and some potential topics, and was asked to provide feedback on aspects of second- phase

preparation. The Commission noted that two volunteers from Asia and the Pacific region were also requested to contact the Global Office directly in order to join the task team.

41. The Commission proposed a number of possible issues for further work in the second phase, including remote sensing, crop forecasting and the need to integrate technical assistance for the collection of data related to the SDG indicators in the Regional Action Plan. The Commission was thanked for this feedback and was advised that these topics could be incorporated in the second phase.

42. Mr Makoto Shimizu, Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific (UNSIAP) presented APCAS/18/7.1.2, “Progress on training activities in the region by UNSIAP in last two years focused on Global Strategy”. The Commission was informed of a range of training activities at both regional and country levels, the results of evaluations of training courses, and organizations collaborating in the training. The Commission was also provided with information about work on developing a training needs assessment tool as well as a network of training institutions in agricultural statistics and the way forward.

43. Mr Hem Raj Regmi, FAO, presented APCAS/18/7.1.3, “An overview and summary of progress on technical assistance activities (cost-effective methods developed by Global Strategy) in the region”. The presentation described the expected outputs of the Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy, the approach towards implementation of the Global Strategy, and areas of demand for technical assistance. The Commission was then provided with a summary of modalities of delivery of technical assistance and progress of work to date on a range of technical assistance activities, noting the recent focus on implementation of cost-effective methods at country level.

44. Mr Michael Sharp, SPC, presented APCAS/18/7.1.4, “Pacific-Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics (P-SPAFS)”. Mr Sharp provided an overview of the P-SPAFS, including its origins, method of development and description of its vision, key objectives and the two principles to guide implementation. The two principles are: building on existing progress on agricultural statistics in the region; and bringing together users and producers of statistics to ensure that data are relevant and used to create evidence-based agricultural policy. The Commission took note of the two principles that will guide implementation and the proposed governance and coordinating framework provided by the document. The Commission also took note of the next steps, which include developing partnerships with countries and development agencies, mobilizing resources and providing more details of the plan for phase 1.

45. The Commission recommended that FAO pursue the implementation of the second phase of Global Strategy, which should focus on dissemination, provision of technical assistance and training on methodologies and tools developed under the first phase.

STRATEGIC PLAN FOR IMPROVING AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL STATISTICS (SPARS)

(Item 7.2 of the Agenda)

46. Mr Hem Raj Regmi, FAO, presented APCAS/18/7.2.1, “Key features of SPARS and critical gaps identified in the region”. Mr Regmi provided background on the Global Strategy, the design and purpose of a SPARS, and links between the SPARS and the National Strategy for Development of Statistics (NSDS) for a country. He further described the three phases in the development of a SPARS: Launching Phase; Assessment Phase; and Planning Phase. The Commission took note of common issues to be addressed by a SPARS, the content of the three phases in the development of a SPARS, the key challenges in the region and the ten essential elements of a SPARS for its success.

47. A roundtable discussion on SPARS followed, with technical contributions on its design, implementation and the way forward from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, China, Fiji, Indonesia, Maldives, Mongolia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam. The common challenges expressed during discussions included the need to incorporate new requirements of SDGs, the need for technical assistance for budgeting of statistical activities, weak coordination between national institutions, the need for better advocacy within the country and with donors, and the time lag between completion and endorsement of SPARS.

48. The Commission took note that SPARS are living documents and can be amended as necessary to accommodate emerging needs such as SDGs. It was also clarified that the costing of statistical activities is an iterative exercise, which depends on several considerations. Initial estimations could refer to cost structures of similar statistical activities.

49. The Commission advised member countries which have not yet developed a SPARS that they should develop one reflecting national needs and international requirements, particularly related to the SDGs. For countries that have already completed a SPARS, efforts should be made to expedite its endorsement by the government and engage in advocacy for its implementation. The Commission noted the request to FAO for continued advocacy for funding and implementation of already completed SPARS.

PROGRESS IN ADOPTION OF COST-EFFECTIVE METHODOLOGIES DEVELOPED UNDER THE GLOBAL STRATEGY

(Item 7.3 of the Agenda)

50. Mr Hem Raj Regmi, FAO, introduced APCAS/18/7.3a.1, “New methodological framework for compilation of country-led Food Balance Sheet”. The Commission was provided with information on the definition and dimensions of food security, the history of Food Balance Sheets (FBS), including recent changes to the methodology, and the links between FBS and Supply Utilization Accounts (SUA).

51. He outlined the potential uses of FBS for food security-related policy analysis and for a range of statistical purposes, including links to SDG indicators 2.1.1 on the PoU and 12.3.1 on the Global Food Loss Index. He also provided further detail on the components of FBS and recent changes to, and the steps involved in, the compilation of SUA and FBS.

52. Mr Savanh Hanephom, Lao PDR, presented APCAS/18/7.3a.2, "Presentation on issues and challenges in preparing SUA/FBS in Lao PDR"; Ms Meas Sotheavy, Cambodia, presented APCAS/18/7.3a.3, "Food Balance Sheet of Cambodia"; Ms Maria Carol, Philippines, presented APCAS/18/7.3a.4, "Philippines: Food Balance Sheets"; Mr K. W. S. Saddhananda, Sri Lanka, presented, APCAS/18/7.3a.5, "Sri Lanka experience on preparing Food Balance Sheet and other Challenges"; and Ms Do Thi Thu Ha, Viet Nam, presented APCAS/18/7.3a.6, "Experience in compilation of Food Balance Sheet in Viet Nam". Common issues in preparation of FBS included the lack of available data (particularly at the level of detail required), the need for development and derivation of appropriate conversion factors, limited budgets and issues around processed food.

53. Ms Shaleha Khatun, Bangladesh, presented APCAS/18/7.3b.1, "Presentation on Cost of Production on vegetables", and highlighted the reporting indicators and tabular formats used for the publication of results for two Cost of Production surveys on cauliflower and pumpkin last conducted in 2014. Challenges in data collection were shared, including issues of farmer recall for different cost items associated with the two commodities.

54. Mr Birendra Kumar Kayasth, Nepal, presented APCAS/18/7.3b.2, "Cost of Production for temporary crops survey 2016", and discussed design considerations for Cost of Production statistics for temporary crops across three ecological belts covering mountains, hill areas and the lowland belt of the Terai⁴ region. He also presented the reporting indicators, such as cost-benefit ratio, gross cost ratio and input-output ratio, for 35 major temporary crops collected in the survey.

55. Ms Erdenesan EldevOchir, Mongolia, presented APCAS/18/7.3b.3, "Cost of Production statistics on livestock products in Mongolia (milk and meat)", and shared experience from the recent pilot study on Cost of Production statistics for livestock. The presentation focused on the various cost items associated with livestock products, including animal shelters, machinery and animal services. The Commission took note of a number of specific challenges, including the valuation of pasture and public lands, and accounting for livestock by-products.

56. Mr Anthony Burgard, FAO, presented APCAS/18/7.3b.4, "Cost of Production statistics for plantation (perennial) crops (mango) in Bangladesh", and highlighted the initial findings of an ongoing technical assistance activity on Cost of Production statistics in collaboration between the Global Strategy and the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics. The presentation covered a number of design considerations for data collection to estimate cost of production of mango, namely variety, agronomic practices and the related cost accounts. The Commission discussed a number of issues related to this topic, particularly those related to

⁴ A lowland region in southern Nepal and northern India that lies south of the outer foothills of the Himalayas and the Siwalik Hills, and north of the Indo-Gangetic Plain.

extreme weather events and how the methodology could account for severe effects on plantation (perennial) crops.

57. The Commission advised FAO to continue work on improving the methodology of data collection for estimation of Cost of Production of various types of agricultural commodities.

STATUS OF AGRICULTURAL AND FISHERY STATISTICS IN THE PACIFIC (Item 8 of the Agenda)

58. A roundtable discussion was held on “Issues and Challenges in Agriculture and Fishery Statistics in Pacific Island Countries”, with interventions from Cambodia, Cook Islands, Fiji, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Philippines, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Common challenges raised were the lack of coordination/collaboration between the national statistics office (NSO) and ministry of agriculture, lack of funds and financial and political commitment, and lack of appropriate tools and equipment for data collection. Further challenges included the geographic dispersion of the population, making data collection more difficult, time-consuming and costly; lack of suitably trained and qualified human resources; lack of suitable monitoring and evaluation frameworks to assist in planning; outdated frames and long data gaps due to infrequent agriculture censuses; and no recognition that core commodities are typically different in the Pacific.

59. Some Pacific countries also raised issues related to cultural challenges in data collection and inadequate arrangements for identification of agriculture households in population censuses, solutions to which require frequent consultations with communities.

60. Recognizing the specific issues and challenges of the Pacific Island countries, the Commission recommended that a working group be set up to address these challenges in the Pacific Island countries. The Commission approved the Terms of Reference (given in Appendix F) and acknowledged the nomination of Fiji as the Chair and Tonga as the Vice-Chair.

61. Michael Sharp, SPC, presented APCAS/18/8.3, “Pacific Sustainable Development Indicators”, which describes the roadmap to the formation of the Pacific Sustainable Development Indicators. The roadmap was approved in September 2017 with a commitment to fulfill implementation of the 2030 Agenda and SDGs. The Commission noted that the Pacific Sustainable Development Indicators cover a subset of 132 priority indicators from the full set of SDG indicators, including 12 of the 21 indicators for which FAO is the custodian agency. The Commission was informed that most Pacific Island countries currently produce less than four of these 12 indicators, so there is significant work to be done.

62. The Commission noted that there is a need to periodically review the set of SDG indicators selected by Pacific Island countries, keeping in mind the developments at national and global levels. This task was assigned to a Working

Group on Agricultural Statistics for Pacific Countries constituted by this Session of the Commission.

PLANNING OF AGRICULTURE CENSUS AND SURVEYS

(Item 9.1 of the Agenda)

63. Mr Jose Rosero, FAO, and Mr Michael Steiner, USA, made a joint presentation on APCAS/18/9.1.1, “Data collection system for agricultural statistics”. The Commission took note of a general description of an integrated system for agricultural statistics and the advantages of such a system but also took note that technical assistance may be needed for a country to determine an appropriate system that balances the country needs with availability of resources and that makes use of new technologies for data collection.

64. The Commission noted the availability of technical assistance to countries for the Agricultural Integrated Survey Programme (AGRIS) and that countries will need to indicate their interest in AGRIS and make associated commitments to be considered.

65. The Commission was then provided with an update on the World Census of Agriculture 2020 (WCA 2020) and in particular a description of the structure and process of “Volume 2 Operational Guidelines”. The commission noted the availability of the guidelines and recommended their use as a reference document for designing and implementing the new round of censuses in the region. The commission also recommended that member countries undertake at least one agriculture census during the period 2016-2025 and provide funding for it in their budget. The commission further recommended that FAO support countries in resource mobilization to ensure the implementation of censuses in the region.

66. FAO’s vision for AGRIS and the principles of AGRIS were then described. The Commission took note of the topics covered in the Core Module, those of four other modules presented, and the cross-cutting themes of gender and resilience. The Commission further took note of the two models for implementation strategies, resource partners and a new partnership between FAO and the World Bank on the Global Rural and Agricultural Integrated Surveys initiative. Finally, the ability of AGRIS to provide basic data for a number of SDG indicators was described.

67. Mr Mark Miller, USA, presented APCAS/18/9.1.2, “USDA Census of Agriculture (CoA) programme planning cycle”, in which he described some history of the Census of Agriculture in the USA, followed by an outline of the activities conducted in each of the five years of the cycle. Year 1 involves determining content through a consultation process and using guiding principles, as well as starting the list-building process. Year 2 sees the list-building continue, testing of content and planning for output publications. Year 3 involves finalization of list-building, use of an area frame agriculture survey to improve coverage and printing of materials. Year 4 involves the conduct, processing and analysis of census data, and Year 5 includes release of products and evaluation. The Commission took note that there are a series of follow-on surveys on various related topics undertaken in the following two years.

68. Ms Sera Bose, Fiji, presented APCAS/18/9.1.3, "Use of data collected from agriculture module in population census in Fiji". Following some background information on Fiji and Fiji agriculture, the Commission was informed that an agriculture module had been included in the 2017 Population Census. The remainder of the presentation was devoted to the 2019 Agricultural Census, with information provided on background to the demand for a census, preparations being made, and proposed items for inclusion.

69. Mr Claudino Ninas Nabais and Mr Ricardo DaCruz Santos, Timor-Leste, presented APCAS/18/9.1.4, "Progress of the first Timor-Leste agriculture census", in which they highlighted that Timor-Leste lacks structural information on the agriculture sector since there has been no agricultural census to date, and administrative reporting has been the main source of data. The presentation further highlighted that some agriculture questions had been included in population censuses in 2004, 2010 and 2015, with the latter being used to provide a frame for the 2018 Agriculture Census. The presentation described details of the timetable for development of the census, current status and the next steps, culminating in enumeration in early 2019.

70. Members wanted to know the availability of technical assistance for the agriculture censuses planned in 2018 and 2019. The APCAS Secretary informed the Commission about the ongoing technical cooperation projects for supporting agricultural censuses in Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji, Lao PDR, Pakistan, Samoa, Niue and Papua New Guinea. The Commission was also informed about technical assistance provided to countries prior to these projects for planning of censuses.

USE OF MASTER SAMPLING FRAMES

(Item 9.2 of the Agenda)

71. Mr Hem Raj Regmi, FAO, presented APCAS/18/9.2.1, "Master Sampling Frame for agricultural statistics" and described the different types of sampling frames, the concept of a Master Sample Frame, and the benefits of constructing and using it. He explained the recommended frame items by WCA 2020, the data sources to build a frame, the requirements for setting up a Master Sample Frame and the eight steps needed to identify a suitable frame.

72. Mr Birendra Kayasth, Nepal, presented APCAS/18/9.2.2, "Master Sampling Frame 2016" and gave some background to the development of a Master Sample Frame for Nepal for 2016. He described details of a range of aspects of development, including the objectives, major activities, software tools used, sampling frame construction and stratification. He further described the field operation use of the Master Sample Frame and estimation methods and use of the dot-sampling method, and gave an overall view of findings and recommendations.

73. Mr Kadarmanto, Indonesia, presented APCAS/18/9.2.3, "Improvement of Indonesian rice statistics using Area Sample Frame approach" and described the background for the need to improve rice production estimation, the current

methodology and its problems, and the proposed solution. He illustrated the construction and use of the area frame as well as the dot-sampling method. Results from the new method were compared with those from the old method and conclusions highlighted the benefits of the new. The Commission expressed interest in the use of the mobile phone application for collecting and sending data.

74. Mr Savanh Hanephom, Lao PDR, presented APCAS/18/9.2.4, “Experience-sharing on the administrative reporting system from Laos” and outlined the agricultural statistics system in Lao PDR, the current reporting system with village as the reporting unit, and deficiencies in village records. The Commission noted the methodology for improving the administrative reporting system for rice, the expected benefits from the new procedure, implementation issues in pilot tests to date and the next steps.

75. Members expressed interest in the dot-sampling methodology and its possible application in their collections.

USE OF TECHNOLOGY FOR CENSUS AND SURVEYS

(Item 9.3 of the agenda)

76. Mr Tang Ke, China, presented APCAS/18/9.3.1, “Application of Remote Sensing Technology in China’s third agricultural census” and informed the Commission that the third Agricultural Census had been completed successfully and that this was possible because of comprehensive improvements in surveying technology using remote sensing, handheld intelligent terminals and direct network reporting. The Commission took note of the use of remote-sensing technology in the construction of the spatial sampling system, the use of handheld intelligent terminals and unmanned aerial vehicles and the design of a multi-level remote-sensing measurement methodology. The advantages of the remote-sensing application for the census, the experiences gained and lessons learned were also explained to the Commission.

77. Ms Kim Jin, Republic of Korea, presented APCAS/18/9.3.2, “Use of Information Technology in the Census of Agriculture 2015 in Korea”. Ms Jin provided some background on the Census of Agriculture, including links to the 2015 Population and Housing Census and the use of administrative data. She explained that there was a voluntary internet survey component to the Census of Agriculture which was used by about 30 percent of the population and that an e-Census integrated management system was used to efficiently manage census operations by networking the field offices and survey headquarters. Data entry was achieved using Intelligent Character Recognition, and Geographic Information Systems were used to verify the target register and to generate output maps.

78. Mr Yasuhiro Miyake, Japan, presented APCAS/18/9.3.3, “Establishment of database to promote utilization of agricultural census data, examples from Japan Census 2015”. Mr Miyake provided information on the background of the Agricultural Census, its historical role and the basic objectives before providing an overview of the 2015 Agricultural Census. The remainder of the presentation described aspects of the new database, including the need to bring together a number of datasets related to agriculture and rural statistics, the spatial basis used in the database, and uses of the database to create an Index of Rural

Communities and to easily integrate data from different sources and analyse and visualize integrated data.

79. Ms Nampung Chirdchuepong, Thailand, presented APCAS/18/9.3.4 “Technology use in agricultural census, Thailand experience”. Ms Chirdchuepong described the use of technology in the 2013 Agricultural Census of Thailand. She highlighted the use of tablets for field data capture, and the benefits and challenges associated with the management of the field work operations using the devices.

80. Looking at the benefits of using technologies such as CAPI, drones and remote sensing, the Commission recommended that member countries consider using these technologies in their agricultural censuses and surveys.

SUB-SECTOR STATISTICS RELATED TO CROPS, LIVESTOCK, FORESTRY AND FISHERY

(Item 10 of the Agenda)

81. Ms Erdenesan EldevOchir, Mongolia, presented APCAS/18/10.1, “Mongolia experience on generating livestock statistics” and described the frequency, indicators collected and collection methodology of 12 key surveys related to livestock, as well as the content of the main collection, the annual Livestock Census. She highlighted the main livestock products, main livestock indicators and key results from the 2017 Livestock Census, as well as areas for further improvement.

82. Ms Giulia Muir, FAO, and Ms Simona Sorrenti, FAO, provided a recorded presentation APCAS/18/10.2, “Making NWFPs visible: Disentangling definitions and refining methodologies”. The Commission was provided with a definition and some examples of non-wood forest products (NWFPs) as well as information about their range of uses, their contribution to food security and nutrition, and their contribution to some economies and to the livelihoods of some populations. The Commission was informed of the challenges faced in data collection because of a wide range of definitions of related products, the large diversity of products and the fact that use and trade are largely confined to the informal sector. The Commission took note of current activities aimed at overcoming these challenges, the next steps, and the potential for data collection by countries.

83. Mr Anthony Burgard, FAO, presented APCAS/18/10.3, “Overview of Forest Resource Assessment in Asia Pacific region” and described the history of the Forest Resource Assessment (FRA), the need for a FRA and the long-term FRA goal. The Commission was informed of the three key elements of current work on the FRA: understanding and addressing user needs; reducing the reporting burden; and improving data quality and reliability. The Commission was then provided with more information about activities in each of these areas and was informed that the FRA 2015 used an on-line platform to facilitate the reporting of data from countries. The presentation concluded with a summary, followed by a list of challenges and some key findings from the FRA 2015.

84. Mr Aminul Islam, Bangladesh, presented APCAS/18/10.4, “The socio-economic component of the Bangladesh Forest Inventory’. The Commission was

informed of the objectives and rationale of the Bangladesh Forest Inventory, as well as the design of the household and community components of the collection and data collection using questionnaires and a mobile phone-based application. Data analysis and dissemination aspects were covered briefly before information was provided about progress to date with the 2018 collection. The Commission took note of the lessons learned and the conclusions presented.

85. Mr Jose Rosero, FAO, presented APCAS/18/10.5, “Innovations in agriculture environment and climate change statistics”. Mr Rosero provided information on a range of core environment statistics maintained in the FAOSTAT database, and value-added publications based on these core data. Examples included agri-environmental indicators, climate change statistics, and greenhouse gas emissions statistics. The Commission noted the new efforts by FAO on agri-environmental and climate change statistics in support of national analysis and international reporting, including for SDG and UNFCCC processes, and recommended that FAO support countries to strengthen their capacities to produce environmental statistics.

86. Ms Sangita Dubey, FAO, presented APCAS/18/10.6, “Fisheries and Aquaculture statistics”, starting with an introduction to the role of fisheries in food security policy. Ms Dubey provided information on the range of fisheries and aquaculture data available through FAO databases, the main challenges related to national reporting, and the work being done by a Coordinating Working Party on Fishery Statistics. She noted SDG 14 – Life Below Water – and the role of Global Capture Production statistics to the SDGs.

87. Mr Kadarmanto, Indonesia, presented APCAS/18/10.7, “Indonesia experience-sharing on fisheries statistics”. The Commission was provided with information on the policy background to fisheries in Indonesia and an overview of fisheries statistics, including coverage and data collection responsibilities. In relation to capture fisheries and aquaculture statistics collected by the Ministry of Marine Affairs and Fisheries, the Commission took note of the flow and methodology of data collection, recent changes to the methodology of aquaculture data collection, and some challenges faced by enumerators and officers in the Data Statistics Centre. In relation to data collected by Statistics Indonesia, known in Indonesia as Badan Pusat Statistik (BPS) Indonesia, information was provided on both regular and ad hoc activities as well as data collected in the Agriculture Census, which is also being used to update sampling frames for aquaculture.

AGRICULTURAL MARKET INFORMATION SYSTEMS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

(Item 11 of the Agenda)

88. Ms Shaleha Khatun, Bangladesh, presented APCAS/18/11.1, “Strengthening Agriculture Market Information System (AMIS) in Bangladesh project” and covered: AMIS activities related to the assessment and improvement of the methodology for estimation of rice and maize production; a system of crop forecasting; a methodology for estimation of the stock of private food grains; and

a number of capacity-building activities. The project contributed to the goals of NSDS and the activities identified in the SPARS of Bangladesh.

89. Mr Chandramani Sharma, India, presented APCAS/18/11.2, 'Establishment of Harmonized Market Information System and Estimation of Private Food Grains Stock". He provided an overview of activities undertaken under the AMIS project in India and elaborated on the harmonization of data on prices of agricultural commodities and the estimation of private stocks of food grains.

90. Ms Sangita Dubey, FAO, presented APCAS/18/11.3, "Price Statistics: Collecting Producer Prices: rationale, challenges and proposed solutions". Ms Dubey provided the Commission with: the policy rationales and approaches to collecting agriculture producer price data and compiling producer price indexes; challenges in data collection from producers with infrequent sales; and potential solutions based on the collection and use of prices at the first point of sale, including market prices.

91. The Commission noted the disaggregation of Asia from the Pacific in FAOSTAT.

OTHER BUSINESS

(Item 12 of the Agenda)

Venue, Date and Topics for the Next APCAS Session

92. Indonesia and Mongolia offered to host the Twenty-eighth Session during 2020. The Secretary committed to pursuing the matter with relevant authorities in these countries, in consultation with the Chair of APCAS.

93. The APCAS Secretary sought suggestions for topics for the next session. The topics proposed by member countries included: (a) Sustainable Development Goals; (b) Census of Agriculture; (c) Big Data in Agriculture; (d) Food Security; (e) Food Balance Sheets; (f) Fisheries Statistics; and (g) Statistics to Monitor Sustainable Agriculture.

94. Members were advised that additional topics should be referred to the Secretary for consideration.

Other Matters

95. The host government arranged a field visit for the delegates to Sigatoka Agriculture Research Station and visits to local food processor facilities.

96. A side event on the use of CAPI was organized.

ADOPTION OF THE REPORT OF THE COMMISSION AND CLOSING OF THE SESSION

(Items 13 and 14 of the Agenda)

97. The Commission concluded the Twenty-seventh Session on 23 March 2018 after adopting the draft report prepared by the Drafting Committee, with amendments.

APPENDIX A: AGENDA

- I. Opening Session**
- II. Election of Officers and Welcoming of New Members**
- III. Adoption of Agenda**
- IV. Launch of Pacific Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics**
- V. FAO's activities in food and agricultural statistics in Asia and the Pacific, and follow-up to the recommendations from the twenty-sixth session**
- VI. Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals**
 1. Monitoring Sustainable Development Goals relating to food and agriculture sector
 2. Monitoring SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture
- VII. Asia Pacific Regional Action Plan for Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics**
 1. Progress in Implementation of Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics
 2. Strategic Planning for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics
 3. Progress in adoption of cost-effective methodologies developed under the Global Strategy
- VIII. Status of Agricultural and Fishery Statistics in the Pacific**
- IX. Developing Integrated System of Agricultural Census and Surveys**
 1. Planning of Agriculture Census and Surveys
 2. Use of Master Sampling Frames
 3. Use of technology for Census and Surveys
- X. Sub-sector Statistics related to Crops, Livestock, Forestry and Fishery**
- XI. Agricultural Market Information System in Asia and the Pacific**
- XII. Other Business**
 1. Other Matters
 2. Venue, Date and Topics for the next APCAS Session
- XIII. Adoption of the Report**
- XIV. Closing of the Session**

APPENDIX B: LIST OF DELEGATES AND OBSERVERS

DELEGATES

BANGLADESH

Shaleha KHATUN (Ms)

Deputy Director
Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics
Dhaka, Bangladesh

Md. Aminul ISLAM (Mr)

Sociologist
Bangladesh Forest Department
Dhaka, Bangladesh

BHUTAN

Chencho DUKPA (Mr)

Head, Renewable Natural Resources (RNR)
Statistics Division
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
Thimphu, Bhutan

CAMBODIA

Khin SOVORLAK (Mr)

Deputy Director General
National Institute of Statistics
Ministry of Planning
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Meas SOTHEAVY (Ms)

Deputy Director
Department of Planning and Statistics
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Sokha LO (Ms)

Deputy Director
Ministry of Agriculture Forestry & Fisheries
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Pich POTHY (Mr)

Director of Subnational Statistics Department
National Institute of Statistics
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

CHINA

Ke TANG (Mr)

Director General
Market and Economic Information Department
Ministry of Agriculture, People's Republic of
China
Beijing, China

Fujiang LIU (Mr)

Section Chief
Market and Economic Information Department
Ministry of Agriculture, People's Republic of
China
Beijing, China

Weicheng DU (Mr)

Deputy Director General
Information Center
Ministry of Agriculture, People's Republic of
China
Beijing, China

Hang GUO (Mr)

Principal Program Officer
Department of Rural Surveys
National Bureau of Statistics, People's Republic
of China
Beijing, China

FIJI

David KOLITAGANE (Mr)

Permanent Secretary for Agriculture
Ministry of Agriculture
Suva, Fiji

Avinesh DAYAL (Mr)

Principal Research Officer
Animal Health & Production
Ministry of Agriculture
Suva, Fiji

Vatimi RAYALU (Mr)

Chief Economist
Economic Planning & Statistics Division
Ministry of Agriculture
Suva, Fiji

Manuella GUNTHER (Ms)

Policy Advisor
Ministry of Agriculture
Suva, Fiji

Epironi TURAGANIVALU (Mr)

Fisheries Assistant
Ministry of Fisheries
Suva, Fiji

Sainiana KIRISITIANA (Ms)

Senior Economic Planning Officer
Economic Planning & Statistics Division
Ministry of Agriculture
Suva, Fiji

Olivia VAKALOLOMA (Ms)
Senior Economic Planning Officer
Ministry of Forests
Suva, Fiji

Jone SOVALAWA (Mr)
Director Crop Extension
Crop Extension Division
Ministry of Agriculture
Raiwaqa, Fiji

Amelia TUNGI (Ms)
Principal Statistician
Fiji Bureau of Statistics
Suva, Fiji

INDIA

Chandramani SHARMA (Mr)
Director
Department of Agriculture Cooperation &
Farmers Welfare
Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare
New Delhi, India

INDONESIA

Leli NURYATI (Ms)
Deputy Director for General Affairs
Ministry of Agriculture
Jakarta, Indonesia

Kadarmanto (Mr)
Head of Food Crops Statistics Division
BPS-Statistics
Jakarta, Indonesia

JAPAN

Yasuhiro MIYAKE (Mr)
Deputy Director for International Cooperation
Statistics Planning Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
Tokyo, Japan

LAO PDR

Samaychanh BOUPHA (Mr)
Head of Lao Statistics Bureau
Vice Minister
Ministry of Planning & Investment
Vientiane, Lao PDR

Savanh HANEPHOM (Mr)
Deputy Director General
Planning and Finance Department
Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry
Vientiane, Lao PDR

Virisine LALASAVA (Mr)
Economic Planning Officer
Economic Planning & Statistics Division
Ministry of Agriculture
Raiwaqa, Fiji

Timoci BOGIDUA (Mr)
Economic Planning Officer
Agriculture Trade
Economic Planning & Statistics Division
Ministry of Agriculture
Raiwaqa, Fiji

Sailasa BAKATA (Mr)
Gender Information Officer
Ministry of Women, Children & Poverty
Alleviation
Suva, Fiji

Anna Astrid SUSANTI (Ms)
Deputy Director for Commodities Data
Ministry of Agriculture
Jakarta, Indonesia

Vixay SANTIVONG (Mr)
Director General
Department of Economics Statistics,
Laos Statistics Bureau
Ministry of Planning and Investment
Vientiane, Lao PDR

MALAYSIA**Manisah OTHMAN (Ms)**

Principal Assistant Director Agriculture and
Environment Statistics Division
Department of Statistics
Putrajaya, Malaysia

MONGOLIA**Erdenesan ELDEV-OCHIR (Ms)**

Director of Economics
Statistics Department
National Statistics Office
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

NEPAL**Birendra Kumar KAYASTHA (Mr)**

Director
Agriculture and Forest Statistics Section
Central Bureau of Statistics
Kathmandu, Nepal

PAKISTAN**Hafeezullah MALIK (Mr)**

Research Officer, Economic Wing
Ministry of National Food Security & Research
Islamabad, Pakistan

PAPUA NEW GUINEA**Vele Pat ILA'AVA (Mr)**

Secretary
Department of Agriculture and Livestock
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

Tom MORRIS (Mr)

Senior Statistician
Department of Agriculture and Livestock
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea

PHILIPPINES**Ermina TEPORA (Ms)**

Chief Statistical Specialist
Crops Statistics Division
Philippine Statistics Authority
Quezon City, Philippines

Maria Carol DURAN (Ms)

Chief Statistical Specialist
Agricultural Accounts Division
Philippine Statistics Authority
Quezon City, Philippines

REPUBLIC OF KOREA**Kim JIN (Ms)**

Director
Short-Term Agriculture and Fisheries Statistics
Division,
Statistics Korea
Sejong-si, Republic of Korea

Lee YOUNGSOO (Mr)

Deputy Director
Agriculture and Fisheries Statistics Division
Statistics Korea
Sejong-si, Republic of Korea

Kang JONGSOO (Mr)

Deputy Director
Information & Statistical Policy Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Sejong-si, Republic of Korea

Lee HYO-YUL (Mr)

Assistant Director
Information & Statistical Policy Division
Ministry of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
Sejong-si, Republic of Korea

Hong JIN-WOOK (Mr)

Assistant Manager
Smart Policy Management Section
Korea Agency of Education, Promotion and
Information Service in Food, Agriculture,
Forestry and Fisheries
Sejong-si, Republic of Korea

SRI LANKA

K.W.S SADHANANDA (Mr)

Director (Statistics)
Ministry of Agriculture
Rajagiriya, Sri Lanka

G.S. UDUWANA (Mr)

Senior Statistician
Department of Census and Statistics,
Battaramulla, Sri Lanka

THAILAND**Patchararatana LIMSIRIKUL (Ms)**

Senior Statistician
Office of Agricultural Economics
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
Bangkok, Thailand

Nampung CHIRDCHUEPONG (Ms)

Director, Economics Statistics Division
National Statistical office
Bangkok, Thailand

TIMOR-LESTE**Claudino Ninas NABAIS (Mr)**

National Director for Research, Statistics and
Agro meteorology Information,
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
Dili, Timor-Leste

Ricardo da Cruz SANTOS (Mr)

National Director of Methodology and Data
Collection of the Directorate General of Statistics
Ministry of Finance
Dili, Timor-Leste

TONGA**Futa LOLO (Mr)**

Statistician
Ministry of Agriculture, Food & Forests
Nuku'alofa, Tonga

Mana'ia HALAFIHI (Mr)

Deputy CEO
Ministry of Agriculture and Food, Forests and
Fisheries
Tongatapu, Tonga

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**Mark Russell MILLER (Mr)**

Director
International Programs Office
US Department of Agriculture
Washington DC, USA

Sarah Elizabeth HOFFMAN (Ms)

Mathematical Statistician
US Department of Agriculture
Washington DC, USA

Micheal Allen STEINER (Mr)

Mathematical Statistician
US Department of Agriculture
Washington DC, USA

VIET NAM**Do Thi Thu HA (Ms)**

Deputy Director
Agricultural, Forestry and Fishery Department
General Statistics Office
Ministry of Planning and Investment
Hanoi, Viet Nam

OBSERVERS**COOK ISLANDS****William WIGMORE (Mr)**

Director of Crop Research
Ministry of Agriculture
Rarotonga, Cook Islands

KIRIBATI**Kanikua Tekaoiki TERIKAUA (Mr)**

Statistics Officer
National Statistics Office
Ministry of Finance and Economic Development
Bairiki, Tarawa, Kiribati

MALDIVES

Ahmed SHAHEED (Mr)
Senior Computer Programmer
National Bureau of Statistics
Male, Maldives

MARSHALL ISLANDS

Henry CAPELLE (Mr)
Chief of Agriculture and Quarantine,
Division of Agriculture
Majuro, Marshall Islands

SAMOA

Tai MATATUMUA (Mr)
Assistant Chief Executive Officer
Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries
Apia, Samoa

SOLOMON ISLANDS

Simon Iro SEFA (Mr)
Deputy Director
Agriculture Planning Department
Ministry of Agriculture
Honiara, Solomon Islands

Samson KANAMOLI (Mr)

GIS mapping Officer/ National Strategies for the
Development of Statistics, Manager
National Statistics Office
Ministry of Finance & Treasury
Honiara, Solomon Islands

TUVALU

Puakena BOREHAM (Ms)
Minister for Natural Resources and Environment
Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment
Funafuti, Tuvalu

Uatea VAVE (Mr)

Principal Agriculture Officer
Department of Agriculture
Funafuti, Tuvalu

Asela PENEUETA (Mr)

Assistant Secretary,
Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and
Environment
Funafuti, Tuvalu

VANUATU

Simil JOHNSON (Mr)
Government Statistician
Vanuatu National Statistics Office
Port-Vila, Vanuatu

Antoine RAVO (Mr)

Director of Agriculture and Rural Development
Ministry of Agriculture, Livestock, Forestry,
Fisheries and Biodiversity (MALFFB)
Port-Vila, Vanuatu

REPRESENTATIVES OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

AFSIS

Pornpun HENSAWANG (Ms)
Manager
ASEAN Food Security Information System
Office of Agricultural Economics
Ministry of Agriculture and Cooperatives
Bangkok, Thailand

SPC

Audrey AUMUA (Ms)
Deputy Director General
SPC-Pacific Community – Suva Campus
Suva, Fiji

Jan HELSEN (Mr)

Director, Land Resources Division
SPC-Pacific Community – Suva Campus
Suva, Fiji

Michael SHARP (Mr)

Economic Adviser
Statistics for Development Division

David DORE (Mr)

Resource & Information Analyst
Land Resources Division

SPC-Pacific Community
Noumea, New Caledonia

SPC-Pacific Community – Suva Campus
Suva, Fiji

UN SIAP

Makoto SHIMIZU (Mr)

Deputy Director
United Nations Statistical Institute for Asia and
the Pacific
Chiba, Japan

WORLD BANK

Stephane FORMAN (Mr)

Senior Agriculture Specialist
World Bank
Sydney, Australia

FOOD AND AGRICULTURE ORGANIZATION OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Pietro GENNARI (Mr)

Chief Statistician
Food and Agriculture Organization
Rome, Italy

Jose ROSERO MONCAYO (Mr)

Director (a.i)
Food and Agriculture Organization
Rome, Italy

Sangita DUBEY (Ms)

Senior Statistician
Food and Agriculture Organization
Rome, Italy

Christophe DUHAMEL (Mr)

Global Coordinator
Global Strategy
Food and Agriculture Organization
Rome, Italy

Mukesh SRIVASTAVA (Mr)

Senior Statistician
FAO Regional Office for Asia and
the Pacific
Bangkok, Thailand

Abdul SATTAR (Mr)

Consultant, Food Security Analyst
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok, Thailand

LIAISON OFFICER

Sera BOSE (Ms)

Principal Statistician
Ministry of Agriculture
Suva, Fiji

CONFERENCE SECRETARIAT

Mukesh SRIVASTAVA (Mr)

APCAS Secretary and Senior Statistician
FAO Regional Office for Asia and
the Pacific
Bangkok, Thailand

Sangita DUBEY (Ms)

Assistant APCAS Secretary & Senior Statistician
Food and Agriculture Organization
Rome, Italy

Rasmiyya ALIYEVA (Ms)

Assistant APCAS Secretary & Statistician
FAO Sub-regional Office for the Pacific Islands
Apia, Samoa

Anthony BURGARD (Mr)

Documentation Officer & Consultant
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok, Thailand

Hemraj REGMI (Mr)

Consultant
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok, Thailand

Shaina HASAN (Ms)

Communication Associate for APCAS &
Consultant
FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Bangkok, Thailand

Allan NICHOLLS (Mr)

APCAS Rapporteur & Independent Consultant

APPENDIX C: LIST OF DOCUMENTS

Doc. No.	Agenda Item	Title of Document
<i>Information Documents</i>		
APCAS/18/INF1		Information Note
APCAS/18/INF2		List of Documents
APCAS/18/INF3		List of Participants
APCAS/18/INF4		Statute of the Commission
<i>Meeting Documents</i>		
APCAS/18/3.1	3	Provisional Agenda
APCAS/18/3.2	3	Provisional Timetable
APCAS/18/4.1	4	Pacific Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics
APCAS/18/5.1	5	Overview of FAO's activities in Asia and Pacific Region and follow-up of the recommendations of the 26th session of APCAS
APCAS/18/5.2	5	Issues in the collection of FAO data
APCAS/18/6.1.1	6.1	The Global SDG indicators' process and FAO's role in monitoring the SDGs
APCAS/18/6.1.2	6.1	Scaling-up Capacity Development Support for SDG Monitoring
APCAS/18/6.1.3	6.1	Overview of the SDG process, progress on the methodological development, FAO's role in the monitoring framework, Draft Questionnaire on SDGs and next steps
APCAS/18/6.1.4	6.1	Questionnaire on country assessment of capacity to report on SDG indicators
APCAS/18/6.1.5	6.1	Strengthening the capacity for monitoring Food Security and Sustainable Agriculture in the context of Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 2 and 12 (Regional TCP)
APCAS/18/6.2.1	6.2	Monitoring SDG target 2.1 – Methodological development and new capacity development initiatives related to food insecurity measurement
APCAS/18/6.2.2	6.2	Learning experience of trend analysis of estimating PoU using SUSENAS data

APCAS/18/6.2.3	6.2	Implementation of the FIES module in the 2018 VHLSS
APCAS/18/6.2.4	6.2	Challenges for engagement of FIES (Food Insecurity Experience Scale) in Solomon Islands
APCAS/18/7.1.1	7.1	Progress in implementation of Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics: Availability of research outputs and next steps
APCAS/18/7.1.2	7.1	Progress on training activities in the region by UNSIAP in last two years' focused on Global Strategy
APCAS/18/7.1.3	7.1	An overview and summary of progress on Technical Assistance activities (Cost Effective Methods developed by Global Strategy) in the region
APCAS/18/7.1.4	7.1	Pacific – Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics
APCAS/18/7.2.1	7.2	Key features of SPARS and critical gaps identified in the region
APCAS/18/7.3.a.1	7.2	New Methodological Framework for Compilation of country-led Food Balance Sheet
APCAS/18/7.3.a.2	7.3	Presentation on issues and challenges in preparing SUA/FBS in Lao PDR
APCAS/18/7.3.a.3	7.3	Food Balance Sheet of Cambodia
APCAS/18/7.3.a.4	7.3	Philippines: Food Balance Sheets
APCAS/18/7.3.a.5	7.3	Sri Lanka experience on preparing Food Balance Sheet and other challenges
APCAS/18/7.3.a.6	7.3	Experience in compilation of Food Balance Sheet in Viet Nam
APCAS/18/7.3.a.7	7.3	Food Balance Sheet: Data availability and issues
APCAS/18/7.3.b.1	7.3	Presentation on Cost of Production on Vegetables
APCAS/18/7.3.b.2	7.3	Cost of Production for Temporary Crops Survey 2016
APCAS/18/7.3.b.3	7.3	Cost of Production statistics on livestock products in Mongolia (Milk and Meat)
APCAS/18/7.3.b.4	7.3	Cost of Production Statistics for Plantation Crops (Mango) in Bangladesh
APCAS/18/8.1	8.1	Issues and Challenges in Agriculture and Fisheries Statistics in Solomon Islands
APCAS/18/8.2	8.2	Agriculture in Island Countries: Challenges and Way Forward

APCAS/18/8.3	8.3	Pacific Sustainable Development Indicators
APCAS/18/9.1.1	9.1	Data Collection System for Agricultural Statistics
APCAS/18/9.1.2	9.1	USDA Census of Agriculture (CoA) Program Planning Cycle
APCAS/18/9.1.3	9.1	Use of data collected from Agriculture module in Population Census in Fiji
APCAS/18/9.1.4	9.1	Progress of the First Timor-Leste Agriculture Census (1° T L A C)
APCAS/18/9.2.1	9.2	Master Sampling Frame for Agricultural Statistics
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APCAS/18/9.2.3	9.2	Improvement of Indonesian Rice Statistics using Area Sample Frame approach
APCAS/18/9.2.4	9.2	Experience sharing on administrative reporting system from Laos
APCAS/18/9.3.1	9.3	Application of Remote Sensing Technology in China's Third Agricultural Census
APCAS/18/9.3.2	9.3	Use of Information Technology in the Census of Agriculture 2015 in Korea
APCAS/18/9.3.3	9.3	Establishment of Database to promote utilization of Agricultural Census Data, examples from Japan Census 2015
APCAS/18/9.3.4	9.4	Technology use in Agricultural Census, Thailand experience
APCAS/18/10.1	10	Mongolia experience on generating livestock statistics
APCAS/18/10.2	10	Making NWFPs visible: Disentangling definitions and refining methodologies
APCAS/18/10.3	10	Overview of Forest Resource Assessment in Asia Pacific region
APCAS/18/10.4	10	The socioeconomic component of the Bangladesh Forest Inventory
APCAS/18/10.5	10	Innovations in Agriculture Environment and Climate Change statistics
APCAS/18/10.6	10	Fisheries and Aquaculture Statistics
APCAS/18/10.7	10	Indonesia experience sharing on Fisheries Statistics
APCAS/18/11.1	11	Strengthening Agriculture Market Information System (AMIS) in Bangladesh Project

APCAS/18/11.2	11	Establishment of Harmonized Market Information System and Estimation of Private Food Grains Stock
APCAS/18/11.3	11	Price Statistics: Collecting producer prices: rational, challenges and proposed solutions

APPENDIX D: SPEECHES

Address of Permanent Secretary

By

Mr David Kolitagane

Permanent Secretary for Agriculture

Ministry of Agriculture

at

The Twenty-Seventh Session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics

Nadi, Fiji

19-23 March 2018

On behalf of the of the Government of Fiji, the Honourable Minister for Agriculture, it is my great pleasure to extend a very warm welcome to all participants of this 27th Session of the Asia Pacific Commission on Agriculture Statistics (APCAS).

I am especially grateful to the Government of Fiji for allowing the Ministry of Agriculture to host this meeting here in Denarau, one of Fiji's pristine tourist destinations. The beautiful landscape and cultural heritage that this venue has to offer provides an encouraging environment for a vibrant and fruitful discussions.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Mr Faiyaz Koya, the Honourable Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Lands and Mineral Resources, for sparing his valuable time to inaugurate this meeting and share his thoughts.

I am delighted to note that some 90 delegates from 30 APCAS member countries are attending this session. This, ladies and gentlemen, and I'm proud to highlight, is one of the biggest APCAS gathering of recent times. There are three new member countries since the last APCAS and more observers present here today. This greater interest in APCAS participation demonstrates the increased importance of food and agricultural statistics in both national and international agendas, at a time when we need more timely and reliable statistics for monitoring the new Sustainable Development Goals.

On this note, I once again convey my sincere gratitude to the Fiji Government for allowing the Ministry of Agriculture to host such an event and for the support on Food and Agriculture Statistics. I am particularly grateful to FAO for the continuous support and assistance to Fiji's Ministry of Agriculture in all the organizational and logistical arrangements to ensure the meeting is productive and successful.

Once again *BULA VINAKA & WELCOME TO FIJI*. I wish you well in your deliberations and a pleasant and enjoyable stay in Nadi.

Address of Outgoing Chair

By

Mr Chencho Dukpa
Chief Agriculture Officer
Ministry of Agriculture and Forests
at

**The Twenty-Seventh Session of the
Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics**
Nadi, Fiji
19-23 March 2018

H.E. Mr Faiyaz Koya, Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Land and Mineral Resources, Fiji,

Mr David Kolitangane, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fiji,

Mr Pietro Gennari, Chief Statistician, FAO,

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

It is a little over two years since the 26th session of the APCAS was held in Thimphu, the capital city of my home country Bhutan. In that session, where I was also a participant, I vividly remember Mr Samaychanh Boupa, Head of the Lao Statistics Bureau, and Vice Minister of Planning Investment of Lao PDR, giving his speech as the outgoing Chair. Little did I realize then that two years later I would be doing the same here in Fiji. Of course I myself was not the Chair of the 26th session of the APCAS – it was Mr Chencho Norbu, the then Officiating Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan, now Secretary, National Environment Commission, Royal Government of Bhutan. But today, on his behalf and also on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Royal Government of Bhutan, and being the only delegate from Bhutan, the task of giving a speech as the outgoing Chair has fallen upon me.

I have not much to say except that APCAS is indeed a body that truly fulfils its stated mandate; that is, to:

- (i) assess the current status of food and agricultural statistical development in member countries;
- (ii) inform the member countries about FAO's activities in food and agricultural statistics during the preceding biennium, particularly in Asia and the Pacific; and
- (iii) discuss new developments in agricultural statistics.

As outgoing Chair, I must acknowledge the tremendous efforts made in the region to improve agricultural statistics, particularly keeping in view the heightened demand for

statistics to monitor the SDGs. I must congratulate the FAO regional office and the member countries for their contributions and achievements.

By the mere fact of the 26th APCAS having been held in Bhutan, it has left behind a notable impact, such as the increased importance and attention which our government now accords to agriculture and rural statistics, especially after having seen the kind of seriousness with which the forum was organized and noting from the forum's many technical presentations the important role that timely and reliable statistics can play in making informed decisions.

I am sure that the 27th session of the APCAS will have a similar impact on Fiji and the nearby island nations. With this, I wish the incoming Chair a very successful chairmanship of the sessions, leading to a very fruitful 27th APCAS.

Thank you and *Tashi Delek*.

Opening Address

By

Mr Pietro Gennari

FAO Chief Statistician, FAO Statistics Division

at

**The Twenty-Seventh Session of the
Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics**

Nadi, Fiji

19-23 March 2018

H.E. Mr Faiyaz Koya, Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Land and Mineral Resources, Fiji,

Mr Chenchu Dukpa, Ministry of Agriculture and Forests, Bhutan, Outgoing APCAS Chair

Mr David Kolutangane, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fiji

Distinguished delegates,

Ladies and gentlemen,

As Chief Statistician of FAO, it is a great pleasure for me to extend a very warm welcome to the delegates present in this Twenty-Seventh Session of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS).

I am especially grateful to the Government of Fiji for cordially offering to host this Session of APCAS. I also express my sincere gratitude to H.E. **Faiyaz Koya, Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Land and Mineral Resources**, for his presence here today to inaugurate this 27th Session of APCAS and for sharing his reflections and insights.

I am very encouraged to note that almost 100 delegates from 30 countries, including 10 from the Pacific region, are attending this Session. I am pleased to inform you that Timor-Leste has recently officially joined APCAS, while Papua New Guinea and Tonga have requested to become members of the Commission in the last few weeks. Please join me in welcoming the delegates from these new member countries who are participating in this APCAS session.

This increased interest in Food and Agricultural Statistics, particularly in the Pacific, is the result of a growing awareness of the importance of evidence-based decision-making and, at the same time, of the increased demand for more and better data faced by all statistical systems, in a context of stagnant or decreasing resources.

Ladies and gentlemen,

The need for accurate data is now more important than ever – particularly with the clock ticking toward 2030, the year that the world has set as its deadline for achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. With less than 13 years to go, and with nearly half a billion hungry people still struggling to survive in our region, having a clear understanding of how well we are advancing toward zero hunger is one of the main tasks at hand, and it is now more urgent than ever.

Timely and reliable food and agricultural statistics are central to understanding if many of those goals are going to be reached. As you all know, Agenda 2030 identifies 17 goals, 169 targets and over 230 indicators to monitor progress – and many are directly related to food security, agriculture, and the sustainable and efficient use of land and water resources, which fall under FAO's mandate.

I know this seems daunting. All national statistical agencies, even those of developed countries, are not able to produce all the data required to monitor the SDG agenda. The current data and capacity gaps are huge, especially in developing countries.

FAO is committed to scale up its efforts in order to develop the capacities of the national statistical institutions responsible for collecting, computing and disseminating data and indicators, so as to ensure that countries are able to report SDG indicators, for both national and global monitoring, and to use them for policy analysis and policy formulation. However, this is not sufficient.

Now it's time to think differently – now it's time to adopt innovative approaches. Because there isn't much time left. Indeed, if we are to meet the 2030 SDG targets, we need reliable statistics on a near "real time" basis. This will mean taking much more advantage of modern technologies to assist in data-gathering and dissemination. Even if this will require opening up the world of statistics to new data producers and to unconventional ways to produce data.

In addition, greater reliance will be needed on new partnerships among UN agencies, and between UN agencies and countries.

In this context, FAO is working closely with a number of UN agencies and regional organizations to expand the current country coverage of SDG indicators, by inserting short modules in existing survey initiatives.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Changing the ways in which we work also means changing the way UN agencies work with countries. It has been our experience that, quite often, global funding drives the statistics agenda at the national level, on an ad hoc basis. This approach has not led to the creation of sustainable statistical systems.

Through the work of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, we are trying to change this. In the last five years, FAO has engaged with 19 countries in the Asia-Pacific region to prepare their strategic plans to improve their agricultural and rural statistics. Some countries have already started implementing these plans, prepared on the basis of their specific needs and taking advantage of new cost-effective methodologies developed under the Global Strategy.

Strengthening partnership and experience-sharing among countries is equally important to foster the development of the national statistical systems, which are lagging behind. In this context South-South Cooperation among countries,

triangulated by FAO, can speed up the pace of statistical development. I would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge China and India, which have provided their statistics experts to support other Asia-Pacific countries. We have also received significant technical contributions for specific countries in the region from the National Agriculture Statistics Service of the US Department of Agriculture.

This is also happening for the implementation of FAO's new World Programme for Census of Agriculture 2020, which will cover the period 2016-2025. Many countries of the region are getting ready to conduct their agricultural censuses in the next two years. FAO is working closely with them to develop technical assistance projects aimed to support relevant national statistical institutions in designing, planning and implementing their census, following innovative and cost-effective methods. Immediately following this Commission Session, a workshop dedicated to Pacific countries has been organized to support the planning for the upcoming censuses.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am very pleased to note that the Pacific Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics is being launched today. It is a 10-year plan that aims to guide the development of agricultural, fisheries and rural statistics in the Pacific Small Island Developing States for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. This Plan will complement other frameworks, particularly the Ten-Year Pacific Statistics Strategy 2011-2020, and fill its gaps by focusing on statistical capacity needs for the agriculture and fisheries sector. The plan is a demonstration of the close partnership between FAO and the key statistical organization of the region, the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. The two organizations have collaborated very closely to make this happen.

Ladies and gentlemen,

During the last half century of its existence, APCAS has provided an invaluable contribution to FAO, by identifying critical directions for the development of its statistical programme of work and for planning initiatives of technical assistance in the region. APCAS offers a unique opportunity for senior statistics officials from member countries to meet and discuss the key regional challenges affecting food and agricultural statistics and the possible ways to address them. FAO highly values the deliberations of these fora, and we rely on their outcomes in deciding our work plans going forward.

This year's Asia-Pacific Regional Conference, which will also be held here in Fiji next month, will have the benefit of considering the recommendations from this meeting. Indeed, FAO took note of your recommendations during the last Regional Conference and, as a result, had assigned high priority to building country capacity to collect better data. This APCAS session will review a detailed report on FAO's activities during last two years, and so I look forward to your recommendations this week.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In closing, I wish to thank my colleagues from FAO headquarters and the regional office for organizing this session and for providing their technical contributions, which will hopefully make it an engaging and productive meeting for you. I am confident that the deliberations and the resulting recommendations of the Commission will help identify common solutions to the challenges lying ahead and support member countries in improving their methods and processes in the area of food and agricultural statistics, in line with global standards.

I wish you every success in your deliberations and a pleasant stay in the beautiful Fiji Island. Enjoy the well-known Fijian hospitality.

Thank you.

Inaugural Address

By

**Honourable Mr Faiyaz Siddiq Koya
Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Land and Mineral Resources**

at

**The Twenty-Seventh Session of the
Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics
Nadi, Fiji
19-23 March 2018**

**Chairman of the 27th Session of Asia Pacific Commission on Agriculture
Statistics (APCAS),**

**Chief Statistician of the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
(FAO),**

Excellencys and Plenipotentiary Delegates from the Asia and Pacific Region,

Distinguished Guests,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Bula Vinaka, Namaste and a very Good Morning to all of you.

I am delighted to be here this morning to deliver the opening remarks on behalf of the Fijian government at the 27th Session of Asia-Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS). I am also honoured to welcome our distinguished delegates, observers and international guests to Fiji. *Bula* and welcome to Fiji.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Our Fijian delegation is joined here today by participants throughout the Asia-Pacific region, including delegates from APCAS member countries, observers from non-member countries, international organizations and technical experts from FAO's regional office and headquarters. The long distances that you traveled to attend this meeting serves to remind us just how important your work is in the improvement of agricultural statistical systems, which is at the heart of the management of food systems.

Ladies and gentlemen,

On behalf of all Fijians, it is indeed a privilege to welcome you all to our shores, and I hope you will all be able to experience the renowned hospitality that we Fijians pride ourselves on offering.

I sincerely applaud the Commission for providing a unique forum, which identifies the needs and priorities of member countries to develop sound statistical systems capable of providing data for planning and policy-making in the food and agriculture sector. Furthermore, with the aim of raising people's living standards and nutritional status, especially rural dwellers, this underlying principle has made Fiji very proud of our membership and of what we have been able to achieve alongside our APCAS partners.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Over the last decade, Fiji has embarked on a progressive path that has seen our standing in the world and our integration with the region grow exponentially. For this reason, we are profoundly grateful for the recognition the Commission has afforded Fiji by honouring us as the host of this year's APCAS.

I am equally thrilled this morning to know that at this assembly, most of the Pacific Island countries are represented, which is the first time in the history of APCAS. I believe that through Fiji's hosting of such a conference, it provides a platform for us as Pacific Island countries to highlight our needs to improve our agricultural statistics systems. Not only to our international partners but also to experts who are present here today. And together, we will be able to find appropriate solutions to our unique problems.

I would like to welcome Papua New Guinea and Tonga, which recently joined the Commission and will be attending this session for the first time. I hope that most of our neighboring Pacific countries that are attending today as observers will join as APCAS members soon alongside Fiji, Tonga and Papua New Guinea. For I believe that together we can gather greater attention to our problems, and seek harmonized solutions.

Ladies and gentlemen,

In the Asia-Pacific region, gaps exist in agriculture data at national and regional levels. However, the data situation for agriculture has eroded in recent decades to the point where many countries lack the capacity to produce and report even the minimum set of data to monitor national trends or guide the international development debate.

Our presence here this morning, as members from the Asia-Pacific region, signifies the status of agriculture in our very existence.

Agriculture plays a vital role in the development of many Asia-Pacific countries, as it is a source of livelihood for a majority of the population, particularly in rural areas. In the Pacific, around three-quarters of the population lives in the rural areas and depends on agriculture and fisheries for survival. They are also vulnerable to the long-term impacts of climate change. Therefore building a sustainable agricultural statistics system will not only help in targeted policy-making but will also help in monitoring progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals in the region.

The changing face of agriculture in the 21st century has increased requirements for agricultural statistics beyond traditional data about production, which are used to monitor the status of food availability and food security. Let me also reiterate the role of agricultural activities in sustaining the environment and in reducing poverty to meet the Sustainable Development Goals. This, however, is being realized and acknowledged at all levels.

In addition, one must not forget that new data requirements are emerging, and we therefore need to understand how population growth, demand for natural resources, use of food products to produce biofuels, and the effects of extreme weather and climate change affect food security, poverty and well-being. These critical issues are not independent of each other – an action in one area has consequences on the others. There is increasing demand to integrate data on the economy, including the social and environmental dimensions related to human activities.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I acknowledge and commend the work carried out by the Commission in the region through the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization, which aims to significantly increase the availability and quality of agricultural and rural statistics that are produced by a statistical system with appropriate institutional, human and financial capacities.

The effort to improve the awareness of SDG indicators and development of a harmonized approach to the collection and use of agricultural and rural statistics in the Asia and Pacific region, I believe, will be achieved through the provision of information on the programme for the World Census of Agriculture 2020 – this, together with the sharing of best practices and experiences of other methodological developments at the global and regional levels. I am glad to note that a special workshop, which is to be held immediately after this meeting, is being organized by FAO for Pacific countries, which are planning their agricultural censuses in the near future.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Tied to the principle of ***‘leaving no one behind’***, driven by means of partnerships and accountability and underpinned by communication, FAO’s broad priorities in the 2030 Agenda are to:

- End poverty, hunger and malnutrition;
- Enable sustainable development in agriculture, fisheries and forestry; and
- Combat and adapt to climate change.

As you embark on this forum, I wish to highlight that leaders from the Pacific actively participated in Bonn, Germany in the 2017 UN Climate Change. The 23rd Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention on Climate Change, which was held from 6 to 17 November last year, met to advance the aim and ambitions of the Paris Agreement and achieve progress on its implementation guidelines. I know that discussions at the COP 23 had data and quality statistics as the spine of its dialogue. This in itself will be another challenge for you as statisticians or statistical organizations.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I am confident that the overall objective of this meeting will provide, among other things, the added knowledge, technical know-how and capabilities to further capacitate agriculture statistical systems in the region, as well to ensure that it's sustainable in the long term.

Before I conclude, I would like to thank FAO for providing the opportunity to Fiji to host this event. While the privilege is truly enlightening, it has at the same time enabled officials from both the national statistics offices and the ministries of agriculture in the region to come together to receive the much-needed technical advice from experts on the best way to improve their agriculture statistics on crops, livestock, fisheries and forests.

I would also like to particularly acknowledge the contribution of the Commission Secretary, Mr Mukesh Srivastava, who has been taking keen interest in the development of statistics in the Pacific and has been the soul behind the Pacific Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics that will be launched later today.

Ladies and gentlemen,

I wish you well in your deliberations over the next five days, and it is my hope that you will be able to chart a practical way forward for the statistical offices that will ensure the production of a quality and sustainable agriculture statistics system in the Asia-Pacific region.

Ladies and gentlemen,

With these words, I now have great pleasure in declaring this meeting open.

Vinaka Vakalevu, Dhanyavad and Thank You.

Vote of Thanks

By

**Mr Mukesh Srivastava
APCAS Secretary, FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**

at

**The Twenty-Seventh Session of the
Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics
Nadi, Fiji
19-23 March 2018**

**Honorable Minister for Industry, Trade, Tourism, Land and Mineral Resources,
Fiji, Mr Faiyaz Koya,**

**Mr Chenchu Dukpa, current APCAS Chair, delegate from the Royal Government
of Bhutan,**

Mr David Kolutangane, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Agriculture, Fiji,

Mr Pietro Gennari, Chief Statistician of FAO,

Distinguished delegates,

Colleagues from FAO and international organizations,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Ni Sa Bula and very good morning to all you.

I am privileged to propose a vote of thanks for the 27th session of APCAS on behalf of the Secretariat and the delegates. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Government of Fiji for hosting this meeting. I recall the great enthusiasm of the delegate from the Government of Fiji in APCAS26 in Bhutan in proposing that Fiji be selected as the next host of APCAS. Fiji has long been a member of APCAS, and the only one from island countries. Her proposal was rooted in the desire to bring on board the situation of Pacific Island countries on the APCAS agenda.

The results of acceptance of her proposal by APCAS is that today in this room we have representatives from 31 countries, including 11 Pacific Island countries, a record in the history of APCAS since its first meeting in Tokyo in October 1966.

I am particularly impressed by the growing interest of the countries in this Commission and their contributions. I have noted that the number of technical contributions has increased from below 20 in Phuket in 2006, when I first organized the APCAS, to nearly 50 at this Session. I would like to express sincere appreciation to the delegates for their contributions, and to their governments for sending them long distances.

I would also like to acknowledge the support and guidance of Mr Pietro Gennari, Chief Statistician of FAO, for this meeting, which is evidenced by his personal presence here with his Rome-based team. Such a rich agenda would not have been possible without his guidance, particularly on current global challenges like monitoring of the SDGs.

Today's meeting would not have been possible without the dedicated efforts of the Liaison Office, under the able leadership of Ms Sera Bose, and colleagues in the Secretariat. Most of them have worked tirelessly to ensure that visas, air-tickets and other documents have been ready in time. *Vinaka*, dear team Fiji! You did it. As the APCAS Secretary, I take the responsibility for and apologize for minor slips and delays where we fell short of the expectations of distinguished delegates.

It was a challenge for the Secretariat to make arrangements for a meeting of this scale in Denarau, particularly when our offices are located far away from the meeting place, and people are still suffering from a high order of jet lag while working in Secretariat. I thank them all for their best efforts. I would particularly like to mention the hotel team, especially Ms Kerani, for their availability and willingness to sort out logistical issues.

Before I finish I would also like to acknowledge the contribution of Pacific Farmers Organization, PIFON, for acting as FAO's local service provider for this event.

The list of contributors is long and it is not possible to mention all of the people involved. My sincere thanks are due to every one of you who worked behind the scenes for this event.

Thank you and *Vinaka Vaka Leu*.

APPENDIX E: MEMBER COUNTRIES OF THE COMMISSION AS OF MARCH 2018

Afghanistan	Malaysia
Australia	Mongolia
Bangladesh	Myanmar
Cambodia	Nepal
China, People's Rep. of	New Zealand
Fiji	Pakistan
France	Philippines
India	Sri Lanka
Indonesia	Thailand
Iran, Islamic Rep. of	Timor-Leste
Japan	United Kingdom
Korea, Republic of	United States of America
Lao PDR	Viet Nam

APPENDIX F: TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE WORKING GROUP ON IMPROVING FOOD, AGRICULTURE, FISHERY AND FORESTRY STATISTICS IN THE PACIFIC ISLAND COUNTRIES

Background

The Working Group of National experts is constituted to further advance the objective of the Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS) relating to the development and standardization of agricultural statistics within the general framework of FAO's work in statistics, giving specific attention to the improvement of statistics in the Pacific Island countries by promoting South-South cooperation and sharing of good practices. The group will support APCAS to fulfil its terms of reference in the Pacific region and report its progress to APCAS.

Terms of Reference

Based on the issues raised in 27th Session of APCAS by the Pacific Island countries, the following areas of priority attention are assigned to the group:

- a. Identify the relevant data items in questionnaires sent by FAO for providing data to FAO databases, and issues related to the provision of data, keeping in mind the structure of agriculture crops and livestock, fishery and forestry sectors in the Pacific Island countries;
- b. Facilitate collection of data from Pacific Island countries and harmonization of international reporting from the region;
- c. Advise FAO and SPC on their work to develop a detailed Work Programme and Budget for implementation of the **Pacific Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fishery Statistics (P-SPAFS)**, and advocate for its funding by governments and resource partners with a view to build sustainable capacity of Pacific Island countries to collect and report data according to a Common Minimum Programme of agricultural statistics for Pacific Island countries;
- d. Under the umbrella of APCAS, promote adoption of a harmonized concept, definitions and methodologies and tools well adapted to Pacific Island countries for collecting, producing and reporting data;
- e. Advocate for adoption of a common set of indicators for global reporting on the SDGs across Pacific Island countries, keeping in mind the methodological developments at the global level, particularly on the 21 SDG indicators under the FAO custodianship;
- f. Champion the development of agricultural statistics in Pacific Island countries, promote coordination and collaboration between the national statistics offices and the ministries of agriculture, and work towards raising the profile of agricultural statistics within national governments;

- g. Organize research on statistical problems of common local interest to countries, and develop tools (classifications, methodologies, questionnaire, manuals, software, etc.) for adoption by Pacific Island countries for programmes such as agricultural censuses and surveys, giving due consideration to the estimation of production of endemic crops such as root crop, high-value wood crops, kava and vanilla;
- h. Suggest ways and means to APCAS in which FAO could assist countries in the development of food and agricultural statistics, including such measures as the organization of training centres, workshop seminars, the promotion of fellowships, and the provision of technical assistance through experts and regional statistical advisers.

Membership

Membership of the Working Group is voluntary within the APCAS membership from Pacific Island countries. Other countries and experts can be invited to join as members to work on specific issues or to provide technical inputs.

Meetings

The Working Group will be technically supported by the FAO sub-regional office for the Pacific, and will welcome technical, financial and in-kind contributions from member countries or interested partners to support its meetings, which will be held as need but no later than an interval of one year.

**DATES AND PLACES OF SESSIONS OF THE
ASIA AND PACIFIC COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS**

First	-	Tokyo, Japan, 26 September – 3 October 1966
Second	-	New Delhi, India, 9 – 14 December 1968
Third	-	Bangkok, Thailand, 26 – 31 October 1970
Fourth	-	Seoul, Korea, 6 – 12 October 1972
Fifth	-	Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, 16 – 20 July 1974
Sixth	-	Manila, Philippines, 25 – 31 March 1976
Seventh	-	Bangkok, Thailand, 17 – 23 August 1978
Eighth	-	Kathmandu, Nepal, 26 – 31 October 1980
Ninth	-	Dhaka, Bangladesh, 2 – 7 December 1982
Tenth	-	Jakarta, Indonesia, 26 July – 1 August 1984
Eleventh	-	Seoul, Korea, 29 May – 3 June 1986
Twelfth	-	Colombo, Sri Lanka, 10 –16 August 1988
Thirteenth	-	Bangkok, Thailand, 29 October – 2 November 1990
Fourteenth	-	Beijing, China, 8 –13 June 1992
Fifteenth	-	Manila, Philippines, 24 – 28 October 1994
Sixteenth	-	Tokyo, Japan, 28 October – 1 November 1996
Seventeenth	-	Hobart, Australia, 2 – 6 November 1998
Eighteenth	-	Bali, Indonesia, 6 – 10 November 2000
Nineteenth	-	Seoul, Republic of Korea, 21 – 25 October 2002
Twentieth	-	New Delhi, India, 20 – 24 September 2004
Twenty-first	-	Phuket, Thailand, 11 – 15 September 2006
Twenty-second	-	Kuching, Sarawak, Malaysia, 9 – 13 June 2008
Twenty-third	-	Siem Reap, Cambodia, 26 – 30 April 2010
Twenty-fourth	-	Da Lat, Viet Nam, 8 – 12 October 2012
Twenty-fifth	-	Vientiane, Lao PDR, 18 – 21 February 2014
Twenty-sixth	-	Thimphu, Bhutan, 15 – 19 February 2016
Twenty-seventh	-	Nadi, Fiji, 19 – 23 March 2018

For copies, write to: Regional Statistician
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific Maliwan Mansion,
Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
39 Phra Atit Road Bangkok 10200
Thailand

E-mail: RAP-Statistics@fao.org

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