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# Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics

**Twenty-Sixth Session**

**Thimphu, Bhutan, 15-19 Feb 2016**

**Agenda Item 4**

**Overview of FAO activities in the Asia and Pacific Region and  
follow-up to the recommendations of the last session of APCAS**

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## **Abstract**

The paper provides an overview of on-going FAO activities in the region since the last APCAS and an Action Taken Report on the recommendations of last APCAS.

The work undertaken by FAO in the Asia and the Pacific region during the last two years involved normative work and technical assistance to countries through the projects. The countries of region benefitted from work done under the Regular Programme budget of FAO regional office, projects funded by FAO country offices and partner institution, the activities of the Regional Office of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics and direct interventions of the partner institutions like ADB and SIAP. The activities of the FAO Statistics Division, Rome under the Research Component of the Global Strategy and Regular Programme also benefitted the countries. The normative work of FAO where the leadership was provided by FAO Statistics Division will be reflected in the technical contribution under different agenda items. The following sections highlight some of the work carried out in the region since February 2014 by the FAO Regional Office (FAORAP).

### **Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics (APCAS)**

FAORAP published the report of the 25th Session of the APCAS and the Senior Statistician played a role in preparation and organization of APCAS 25 in his capacity as the Secretary of the Commission.

### **Regional Year Book**

The FAO Statistical Yearbook 2014 for Asia Pacific Region has been printed in 2015. This publication serves as a reference point on the social, economic and environmental dimensions of agriculture for policy-makers, donor agencies, researchers and analysts as well as the general public. The book can be downloaded from FAO website and the detailed data on aspects presented the Yearbook can be accessed electronically through the FAOSTAT data platform. A pocket book for 2016, containing data up to December 2015 has also been prepared and is planned to be released in March 2016.

### **News Letter**

FAO Regional Office earlier published a monthly newsletter “Asia Pacific Food Situation Update” (APFSU) to monitor developments in the food market. The scope of the newsletter has since been expanded to cover food related policies also, and it is now called the “Asia Pacific Food Price and Policy Monitor”. The newsletter is distributed electronically to diplomatic missions, other UN and international development organizations, FAO colleagues, media and other stakeholders in the region. It is also disseminated through the APCAS-List and posted on the RAP website.

### **Technical Report on Crop Monitoring for Improved Food Security**

Based upon the deliberations in the Expert Meeting, organized as a side event of APCAS 25 held in Vientiane in 2014, a technical Report on ‘Crop Monitoring for Improved Food Security’ has been published jointly with Asian Development Bank. The publication summarizes the outcome of the deliberations in the meeting, best practices and the statistical methodologies in the region in the form of a series of technical papers for reference.

## **Training Workshops and Meetings Organized/Participation in the Meetings**

Since APCAS 25, a number of capacity building events in the form of workshops and meetings were organized with a focus on the agenda of the Global Strategy and Food Security Statistics. List of these events is at **Annex 1**. Besides these, the Senior Statistician also participated and made technical contribution in the 2 Governing Council meetings of SIAP, a Management Seminar organized by SIAP for the Heads of the National Statistic Offices, and meeting of ESCAP Committee on Statistics.

## **Technical Assistance to Countries**

Direct technical assistance to countries through FAO implemented projects for specific statistical activities has been the main component of the capacity building efforts of the FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific. List of ongoing and recently completed statistical projects since last APCAS is at **Annex 2**. Major areas in which technical assistance was provided to the countries through these projects included:

- implementation of Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy to cover 20 countries in the region in a period of 5 years, which involves an in-depth assessment of the capacity of statistical system of the country and preparation of a strategic plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics, and limited immediate technical assistance on identified priorities;
- AMIS projects in Bangladesh, India, the Philippines and Thailand;
- conducting of agricultural census in Cambodia and Tonga;
- establishing a national sustainable Information and Early Warning System for Food Security in Timor Leste;
- Building statistical capacity for food security and nutrition information for Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Philippines, Nepal, and Laos. The work was also been initiated in Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Timor Leste in this domain.

## **Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics**

Regionals component of the Global Strategy has a target of covering 20 countries in the region during 2013-17. At present, the implementation of the RAP is in progress in 15 countries selected during the last 3 years as under:

2013 - Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Samoa, Sri Lanka,

2014 - Fiji, Georgia, Lao PDR, Myanmar,

2015 - Afghanistan, Cambodia, Maldives, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, and Viet Nam.

Regional Steering Committee of the project has approved selection of 4 more countries (China, Malaysia, Mongolia and Tonga) for GS implementation in 2016.

Besides these 19 countries, work on development of a Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Fisheries Statistics (P-SPARS) for the Pacific Island Countries has also commenced in collaboration with the Secretariat of Pacific Community (SPC). Similar initiatives are planned in collaboration with SARRC and ASEAN to complement the efforts of Global Strategy. It is expected that working with sub-regional organizations will bring in cost-efficiency and long-term sustainability and impact of Global Strategy in the Asia Pacific.

The GS implementation process involves consultation with all national stakeholders in preparing the strategic plans after and in-depth assessment and implementing a few priority short term projects to meet immediate needs of the country. Significant progress has been made in providing technical assistance to the selected countries both in terms of SPARS preparation and in implementing approved short-term project activities despite constraints on the availability of suitability qualified experts in the region.

### **Strengthening Agricultural Market Information Systems in Bangladesh, India, Philippines and Thailand**

AMIS is a G20 global initiative to build Agriculture Market Information Systems to bring about improved market transparency. A global project funded by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation is being implemented by FAO. It provides tools, methodologies and technologies for greater market transparency in target countries. In this region it is supporting activities in Bangladesh and India towards fulfilment of global objectives.

The project component ‘Strengthening Agriculture Market Information Systems (AMIS) in Bangladesh’ is being implemented in collaboration with Statistics and Informatics Division (SID), Ministry of Planning. The Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), under the SID is the lead coordinating agency with due participation of five other national agencies /line departments of the Government. The project was formally initiated in Bangladesh with the inception workshop held on 28 June 2015. The project will be continuing till June 2017.

AMIS, Bangladesh aims at enhancing the institutional, methodological and human resource capacity in Bangladesh for producing data and information on crop production and forecasts and food stocks with better quality, standardisation and timeliness with focus on rice, wheat, maize and potato. This *inter alia* will focus on improving reliability and timeliness of statistics and information, building institutional and human capacity, addressing methodological and procedural issues, and improving documentation and dissemination capabilities.

The activities under AMIS, Bangladesh have been selected to build synergies and complementarity with other initiatives such as Global Strategy for Improvement of Agricultural and Rural Statistics, National Strategy for Development of Statistics, Statistics Act, and Strategic Plan for Development of Agricultural and Rural Statistics.

The AMIS, India project aims to strengthen capacity of the country in four areas of interventions covering Food Stock Measurement, Market Price Monitoring system, Tools and Technology for price data collection and Modelling and Crop Outlook. The project initiated with the inception workshop held on 15 December 2015 and is expected to be completed by June 2017.

In addition to AMIS country baby projects in Bangladesh and India, FAORAP and FAO Statistics Division also implemented the AMIS project (MTF/RAS/359/JPN) in Thailand and Philippines, the world’s largest rice exporter and importer respectively, with financial assistance from Japan. The purpose of the Project was to improve the measurement of rice stocks and production in Thailand and Philippines. It focused on market information on rice, given the crop’s strategic importance in the region. The project has contributed to the goals of AMIS in improving market information by addressing capacity gaps in the food and agricultural statistics systems of Thailand and the Philippines. The results and lessons learnt

have been disseminated to the entire region through the ASEAN Food Security Information System (AFSIS). Synergies and cooperation with the Global Strategy, AMIS and AFSIS has greatly enhanced the outcomes of the project.

### **Building statistical capacity for quality food security and nutrition information in support of better informed policies' for Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Philippines and Nepal.**

The main objective of the project (TCP/RAS/3409) was to improve national technical capacity to process Food Security and Nutrition Information for better policies. The capacity of members of the multi-sectoral Technical Working group in the selected countries was built through a series of workshops. This improved capacity in the area of food and nutrition statistics is intended to enable countries to compile, verify and validate country Supply and Utilization Accounts (SUA) and generate Food Balance Sheets (FBS), as well as process Household Expenditure Survey data to compile Food Security Indicators. The target countries which joined this project are currently at different stages of implementation of project Work Plan include:

- Advanced countries: Lao PDR, Nepal, and the Philippines
- Progressing and Newly added countries: Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Timor-Leste

The workshops organized under the project include:

- National workshops held in 2014 and 2015 to provide the Basic Training on the structure of Supply and Utilization Accounts to members of multi-sectoral task force, and
- Regional workshops:
  - 'Regional Training Workshop Supply Utilization Accounts (SUAs) /Food Balance Sheet (FBS), March 2014, Pattaya, Thailand',
  - Regional Training Workshop on Validation of Supply-Utilization Accounts, April 2015, Bangkok, Thailand' and
  - Regional Training Workshop on Food Security Statistics during 21-25 September 2015 Bangkok, Thailand

### **Cooperation with other Organizations and Agencies**

Close co-operation is maintained with international organisations, within UN system and outside, involved in food and agricultural statistics in the Asia and Pacific region. FAO has been represented in meetings on statistics, including those organised by ESCAP, such as the ESCAP Committee on Statistics. Partnership ESCAP, ASEAN/AFSIS, SAARC, SPC and ADB was enhanced within framework the implementation of the Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Rural and Agricultural Statistics. Support was also provided to SIAP by sending resource persons to the regional trainings organized by SIAP. In Myanmar, collaboration was established with ADB towards preparation of their National Strategy for Development of Statistics. Sub-regional organization and NASS,USDA are now members of the Regional Steering Committee of the Global Strategy.

### **Follow up action on the recommendations of last APCAS**

A table on the follow-up action on the recommendations of the 25<sup>th</sup> session of APCAS is attached as **Annex3**.

## **Conclusions and outlook for future**

Besides the regular programmes of FAO, Regional Action Plan of the Global Strategy is making significant impact in the availability and quality of agricultural statistics produced in the region. RAP's ongoing statistical project work has grown significantly in the last biennium. Building national capacities to meet the data needs for monitoring the SDGs will further intensify the statistical activities in the region. The implementation of national SPARS will tremendously raise the demand of technical assistance from FAO.

New World Programme for Census of Agriculture (WCA 2020) has been launched with significant focus on building integrated system of surveys, central piece of all SPARS being prepared under the Global Strategy. Support for this works has already been sought by Bangladesh, Bhutan, Vietnam and Timor Leste. Cambodia and Tonga which have recently completed an agricultural census will need support to build a system of surveys to meet the current data needs, a next logical step after an agricultural census. Additional countries in the region will need support in implementing WCA 2020 guidelines.

Statistical capacity to collect and analyse food security statistics continues to remain a weak in the region. Support in this area is highly in demand within the framework of Regional Initiative on Zero Hunger Challenge. This is highly relevant for monitoring the targets under SDG 2 which relates to reduction of Hunger.

The overall outlook is that the demand for technical assistance from FAO in the region will grow further and experts in different domains for Food and Agricultural Statistics will need to be deployed in the region to meet this demand. The regional Office is on the lookout for additional consultants who can be trained to deliver the technical assistance to counties.

In order to make a sustainable impact of the statistical systems, the catalytic projects funded through FAO and Global Strategy funds will need complementary funding from member countries and development partners.

**Annex 1****Training Workshops and Meetings: Organization and Participation*****Food Security Statistics related***

- Regional Training Workshop Supply Utilization Accounts (SUAs) / Food Balance Sheet (FBS) 03.03.2014 - 07.03.2014 Pattaya, Thailand
- Regional Training Workshop on Validation of Supply-Utilization Accounts during 20.04.2015 - 24.04.2015 Bangkok, Thailand
- Regional Training Workshop on Food Security Statistics during 21.09.2015 - 25.09.2015 Bangkok, Thailand

***Global Strategy related******Meetings***

- Third Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific for the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics 13.11.2014 - 14.11.2014 Bangkok, Thailand
- Fourth meeting of the Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific for the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, 20.03.2015 - 20.03.2015 Bangkok, Thailand
- The ASEAN Stakeholders Meeting on the Implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics and the Eighth Meeting of Directors-General of Agricultural Statistics and Information in ASEAN Plus Three Countries, 15.06.2015 - 17.06.2015 Bangkok, Thailand

***Workshops***

- Briefing on the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in the Asia-Pacific Region, 13.11.2014 - 13.11.2014 Bangkok, Thailand
- Orientation Programme for Implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, 16.03.2015 - 16.03.2015 Bangkok, Thailand
- Workshop on Strategic Planning for Agriculture and Fisheries Statistics in the Pacific Island Countries during 05.10.2015 - 08.10.2015 Nadi, Fiji

**Annex 2****List of recently completed and ongoing projects***Regional Projects*

1. Regional TCP Project on “Building Statistical Capacity for Quality Food Security and Nutrition Information in Support of Better Informed Policies' for Bangladesh, Lao PDR, Philippines and Nepal”.
2. MTF /RAS/372/MUL - Asian Regional Component- Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics. Being implemented in 20 countries, at different stages of implementation.

*Country Projects*

3. MTF/GLO/372/BMG – Strengthening Agricultural Statistics in Anchor countries- Phase I: Assessment of anchor country agricultural statistics. Completed 30 June 2015 with activities in Bangladesh.
4. MTF/RAS/359/JPN: Strengthening Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) in Thailand and Philippines- Regional component (started in Nov 2012 and completed in Oct 2015).
5. MTF/GLO/359/BMG – Strengthening Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) globally and in selected countries (Bangladesh and India) using innovative methods and digital technology started Aug 2012 with closing date June 2017.
6. TCP/PHI/3401 “Establishment of the Food Security Information System in the Philippines (Phil-FSIS)” is a 2-year (\$366,000). The project was implemented by BAS, Philippines in coordination with NSO and other agencies; closed 31 Dec 2014.
7. TCP/CMB/3401 and related Multilateral project to support the first National Census of Agriculture. (Completed December 2015).
8. TCP/TON/3403: Conducting the third national agriculture census in Tonga: Concluded December 2015.
9. TCP/SAM/3502: Improving capacity for evidence-based policy monitoring and development: EOD Oct 2014 NTE Sep 2016.
10. TCP/BGD/3401 “Harmonization and Dissemination of Unified Agricultural Production Statistics in Bangladesh”. Started March 2012 and closed in 2014.
11. TCP/TIM/3402 “Establishing a sustainable National Information and Early Warning System (NIEWS) on Food Security in Timor-Leste”. This project started in September 2012 and closed in 2014.
12. GCP/RAS/285/JPN “Statistical Support to the Global Strategy within the context of AMIS” closed December 2015.
13. GCP/TIM/005/EC Establishing a sustainable National Information and Early Warning System (NIEWS) on Food Security in TL. The 36-month project beginning Jan 2012, closed 2015.
14. GCP/CMB/040/MUL First National Census of Agriculture (NCAC I). It is being implemented over three years beginning May 2012, closed 2015).

The above projects involved substantial technical assistance to the countries through FAO staff and consultants.



## Annex III

## Report on action taken by FAO on the recommendations of the last session (APCAS 25)

Para No.	Recommendations of APCAS 25	Action taken
13	The Commission supported the establishment of the Global Commission and requested further information on its establishment.	A round table discussion will take place with additional information from FAO Statistics Division based upon document number APCAS/16/7.1 in this Session.
15	The Commission recommended that the following measures should be adopted to improve low response rates by countries to FAO questionnaires: (i) identifying and designating single focal points at national level, wherever possible; (ii) improving coordination mechanisms with the National Statistical System; and (iii) organizing specific training and workshops addressing data related issues.	FAO organized number of workshops in support of Global Strategy activities which has led to improved coordination among data producers. This matter requires continued effort by countries and FAO.
17	The Commission noted the need for guidelines on the effective use of new technologies to reduce processing time.	Research component of Global Strategy is working on producing a handbook on use of modern geo-positioning devices and a technical report on cost-efficiency of remote sensing in developing countries. These are likely to be finalized soon. Standardised CAPI software is also available from FAO for adaptations and use free of charge. This was already adapted and used in Thailand under a FAO project.
21	The Commission (a) supported FAO's work to develop the modalities for South-South and triangular cooperation for pooling of technical assistance and training resources in the region, (b) encouraged FAO to liaise with select member countries who expressed willingness to contribute towards SSC and implementation of the Global Strategy, and (c) encouraged countries to consider providing their contributions to FAO's efforts to build country capacities in the region under south-south cooperation arrangements.	South-South Cooperation (SSC) is a strategic modality for FAO's work with countries. It is, however, not always possible to use government staff for providing technical assistance to other countries.  Collaboration with sub-regional organizations such as ASEAN, SAARC and SPC is being extended to promote SSC.  At individual country level FAO efforts enabled India to provide technical assistance to Fiji and Afghanistan on use of remote sensing technology for agriculture sector information.

		Under a project on Food Security Statistics (TCP/RAS/3409) the capacities built in Nepal were utilized in other countries of the region.
28	The Commission recommended that research institutions, space technology agencies and national statistical systems should continue to regularly exchange ideas and experiences for improving crop monitoring, and the technical papers and presentations on the methods that were discussed in the meeting should be widely disseminated.	FAO in collaboration with ADB has disseminated a publication titled ‘Crop Monitoring for Improved Food Security’ which provides guidance on use of different methodologies as per country situation.
29	The Commission recommended that a working group be formed to review the content of the SQ to derive a regional version, which would be used for reporting to the next APCAS.	Based on experience in 15 countries covered by Global Strategy, the SQ has been revised and is being used in Pacific countries for collection of information. Revised Questionnaire will also be sent to remaining countries for assessing status at the end of 2015. This will coincide with mid-term progress assessment of Global Strategy. Situation in selected Pacific countries, assessed on the basis of shorted version of SQ is being presented in this APCAS.
32	The Commission encouraged countries to produce their own Food Balance Sheets (FBS), with special emphasis on producing reliable and detailed information on food utilization. In this regard, FAO would assist countries in: (a) the FBS compilation process; (b) the adoption of the most recent methodological improvements; and (c) the development of necessary statistical capacity.	FAO implemented a regional TCP project on “Building statistical capacity for quality food security and nutrition statistics” in selected countries. Nepal, Bangladesh and Philippines have completed their work, The project has helped improve resource base of professional statisticians which will be used for assistance in other countries. Besides FAO’s own resources, Global Strategy funding support will also be used in countries which indicate preference for technical assistance in this area as part of their in-depth country assessment. The FAO Statistics Division has prepared a new handbook on the compilation of the Food Balances, which introduces new methods for the estimation of the main Utilization aggregates.

34	<p>The Commission recommended that countries share all available micro-data required for estimating the PoU and other information contained in the suite of food security indicators working with FAO. The Commission encouraged countries to work in collaboration with the relevant international initiatives that attempt at harmonizing standards and tools used when designing and implementing household surveys, such as the International Household Survey Network (IHSN) and the ADePT, the software platform prepared by collaboration of FAO and the World Bank, for automated economic analysis.</p>	<p>Under TCP/MON/3402/TCPF (baby 04), a technical workshop was organized in Ulan Bator from the 16<sup>th</sup> to the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2015 to support the Mongolia University of Science and Technology to process and analyse household food consumption and individual intake data collected in the 2013 Household consumption survey using ADePT-FSM. A technical workshop was organized in Rome from 11 to 21<sup>st</sup> May 2015 to train one national officer from Nepal, Philippines, Laos and FAORAP on the process and analysis of food consumption data collected in national household surveys using ADePT-FSM.</p> <p>A number of regional and national workshop were organised under regional project: TCP/RAS/3409: Building Statistical Capacity for Quality Food Security and Nutrition Information in Support of Better Informed Policies. These include a regional workshop organised by FAORAP in collaboration with the National Statistical office of Thailand, in Bangkok from 21-25 September 2015. Eight countries, at different stages of the project participated to the workshop:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1) Advanced countries: Lao PDR, Nepal, and the Philippines</li> <li>2) Progressing and newly added countries: Bangladesh, Myanmar, and Timor-Leste</li> <li>3) Interested countries: Sri Lanka and Pakistan</li> </ol> <p>The workshop aimed at finalizing food security statistics of advanced countries and reviewing the status of progress in other countries in order to provide them further technical support. The workshop covered both Supply utilization account/Food Balance Sheets (SUA/FBS) as well as household survey data processing.</p> <p>Follow-up national workshops were organised in Bangladesh, Nepal and Laos for the activity related to the analysis of</p>
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		food security indicators derived from surveys using ADePT-FSM)
37	The Commission endorsed the work on the suite of food security indicators and the compilation of a composite Food Security index. Countries have been asked to provide feedback on the proposed set of indicators and indices, potential data collection challenges and country-level sensitivities. The Commission endorsed the approach of identifying multiple dimensions of the measurement of food insecurity to allow mainstreaming of food security within countries' policy frameworks, and the approach proposed with the Voices of the Hungry project.	No feedback was received from countries on the Food Security Indicators and on the Food Security index.
38	The Commission recommended that countries adopt CPC 2.1 and HS 2012, and other international standard classifications, and noted that FAO is committed to provide assistance to this process. The Commission noted the progress made by FAO in integrating agriculture, fishery and forestry into major international product classifications. The Commission encouraged member countries and regional organizations to strengthen partnerships and collaboration on international classifications. The Commission recommended that member countries complete the FAO survey on national classifications for agricultural statistics which was circulated in 2012.	FAO has published a Guidelines on classifications for Agriculture which can be down loaded from: <a href="http://gsars.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Guidelines-for-Int-Classifications-on-Agricultural-Statistics-web.pdf">http://gsars.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/12/Guidelines-for-Int-Classifications-on-Agricultural-Statistics-web.pdf</a>
41	The Commission welcomed the outcomes of the project [Food Balance Sheet TCP] and recommended that FAO pursue a similar initiative in additional countries either through technical assistance or through south-south cooperation.	The TCP on Food Security Statistics concluded in December 2015 some positive results in Bangladesh, Nepal and the Philippines. Similar projects will be considered for funding in biennium 2016-17 to complete work in remaining countries viz., Laos, Myanmar and Timor Leste and other countries which want similar assistance.
42	The Commission welcomed the efforts being carried out in the Philippines [reference to PhilFSIS] and recommended that FAO explore	The system was presented to other countries within the framework of Regional Initiative on Zero Hunger

	possibilities for the implementation of similar systems in additional countries.	Challenge.
43	Referring to guidelines and methodologies to integrate fisheries and aquaculture in censuses. “A draft concept note of the proposed framework and two survey modules would be sent to countries for their comments soon. Ms Tsuji sought collaboration from countries in this work which is being done within the framework of the Global Strategy.”	This work has progressed and will be presented in the relevant session.
47	The Commission expressed support for FAO, SIAP, ADB, and the World Bank’s efforts and work in helping countries with the archiving, documenting, and analysis of micro-data. It also supported the effort to archive, document and analyze microdata collected in the context of the WCA 2010. FAO will also explore the possibility of having a central depository for micro-data for agricultural surveys and censuses in cooperation with the IHSN.	The Global Strategy has produced guidelines “Providing Access to Agriculture Microdata: A Guide” in 2014. The guide presents a set of operational tools, methods and good practices that are taking advantage of knowledge from country experiences and existing material developed within the International Household Survey Network (IHSN). Regional implementing partners of the Global Strategy in the Asia-Pacific region, together with other stakeholders related to the IHSN network, should now play a strong advocating role for convincing and helping countries to develop archiving and dissemination strategies for agriculture microdata. It is expected that in the framework of the Global Strategy regional workshops could be organized during the biennium 2016-2017 and direct support provided to a significant number of countries.
50	The Commission recommended countries, where CountrySTAT or no other suitable platform is available, to establish it as a standard platform. The Commission also suggested that countries consider CountrySTAT as the recommended platform for the integration, management and dissemination of official statistics for food and agriculture.	The FAO Statistics Division has implemented CountrySTAT in Afghanistan (with TCP funding) and has received an official government request to implement CountrySTAT in Tajikistan. In addition, CountrySTAT has been implemented in Bhutan with government funding. At the moment, we have a TCP project that aims at supporting the ECO region through the ECO Secretariat based in Tehran, Iran. The introduction of CountrySTAT in Asia is aimed at promoting data sharing at national and regional levels and at strengthening national capacities to manage, analyse and disseminate

		<p>statistical data. Funds for the implementation of the system in the continent, however, have not been made available so far.</p> <p>Depending upon resource availability, it would be very useful to organize a regional event to present CountrySTAT to the representatives of the countries and define the way forward.</p>
55	<p>The Commission recommended that FAO take a strong role for capacity development to fill gaps, and develop methods for improving agriculture and land use change statistics and GHG estimations. The Commission recommended follow-up regional activities, with proposals for FAO to work further with Member Countries in Asia and the Pacific, to meet challenges of current climate policy requirements and develop robust national data systems.</p>	<p>There was robust follow-up activity on GHG-relevant statistics in 2014-2015. The FAOSTAT emissions database was used as a quality assurance tool in national GHG inventories processes in several countries, including China, Mongolia, Japan, Indonesia, among others. FAO participated to two international workshop events organized by the Japanese GHG Inventory Office (GIO), WGIA-12 and WGIA-13, offering support to member countries and as a means to disseminate its most recent tools.</p>
56	<p>The Commission endorsed the work undertaken by FAO in developing an agri-environmental indicators database in FAOSTAT, and suggested that FAO work with member countries in developing agri-environmental indicators that are integrated with the FDES and SEEA.</p>	<p>The FAO Statistics Division continued its work on development of the SEEA Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (SEEA Agriculture), as the main data framework for joint environmental economic analysis. In 2014 four pilot countries tested initial SEEA Agriculture concepts, including Indonesia.</p> <p>The SEEA Agriculture is now fully developed as a final draft and will be submitted to the UNSC for adoption in Mar 2016.</p>
57	<p>The Commission recommended that FAO continue its work on Cost of Production (CoP) in agriculture, and encouraged countries to critically review emerging methodological issues, provide feedback and contributions to the CoP Handbook and participate in the field-testing of components of the Handbook.</p>	<p>In collaboration with country officials from the Ministry of Agriculture, National Statistics Office, and/or Producers Associations, FAO undertook CoP field tests in Colombia, Tunisia and the Philippines. Results of these tests helped improve the CoP Handbook, and are documented in a soon-to-be published document that will accompany the Handbook.</p>
58	<p>The Commission recommended that FAO continue its work on measuring agricultural investment; encouraged member countries to share information on other data sources at country level</p>	<p>FAO has continued its work on agricultural investment, and has now published in FAOSTAT and the FAO Statistics Division webpage, multi-year data for Government Expenditures in</p>

	<p>that could improve agricultural investment financing datasets; and recommended that FAO continue its work on measuring producer and consumer prices and price transmission and volatility and encouraged member countries to provide feedback on the methodological developments regarding agricultural price statistics.</p>	<p>Agriculture (2001-2013); Development Flows to Agriculture (1972-2013); Credit to Agriculture (1991-2014). Also available on the FAO Statistics Division webpage are the data, metadata and analysis of Foreign Direct Investment in Agriculture (1997-2012), and a provisional dataset on Agricultural Capital Stock (1970-2013).</p> <p>Work on Producer Price statistics continues, with provisional 2014 data now available in FAOSTAT. Work on food consumer prices is now undertaken in collaboration with the IMF, which will lead the collection and compilation of official country data on the CPI and its subcomponents. Due to limited resources, it is likely that the work on price transmission and volatility will be less frequent and extensive as previously hoped.</p> <p>Apart from requests from countries for capacity development/training on GEA, there has been very little feedback received from APCAS countries on the other elements.</p>
59	<p>The Commission recommended that FAO explore capacity building activities related to forecasting methodologies, dynamic food balance sheets, and other required inputs needed to fill the requirements of the AMIS Secretariat.</p>	<p>The FAO Statistics Division and Regional Office are implementing the AMIS project in Bangladesh, India, Philippines and Thailand. In addition, the FAO Trade and Market Division has continued its AMIS exchange programme which provided extensive training to delegates from 5 countries of the region (China, Indonesia, India, Thailand and Vietnam).</p>
62	<p>The Commission recommended that FAO strengthens its analysis of gender disaggregated data and continues efforts to work with countries to improve the collection of gender disaggregated data in censuses and surveys and recommended that countries include items regarding land ownership and/or management, wherever appropriate, and requested that FAO provide clearer guidance about their collection in the WCA 2020 guidelines.</p>	<p>A new theme “Intra-household Distribution of Managerial Decisions and Ownership on the Holding” has been included in the WCA 2020. This theme replaced the “Management of the holding” theme and the implicit concepts of sub-holding and sub-holder that were introduced in the WCA 2010. The revised theme improves the approach for assessing the distribution of managerial decisions and introduces the identification of ownership within the household. The main objective of introducing this new</p>

		theme is to assess the role of women in decision-making on the holding.
67	the Commission recommended that in future a better balance be found between the number of papers and the time available for the session preferably by extending the session to five days.	The recommendation has been implemented by organizing the 26 <sup>th</sup> session for 5 days.
68	The Commission recommended that more notice be provided of session dates and agenda and those papers be provided in advance of the session to enable member countries to consider issues in papers before the start of the session.	Noted for compliance.
69	The Commission recommended that the start of each APCAS should begin with a presentation on the review of recommendations made at the previous APCAS.	Implemented with this report.
70	The Commission discussed the availability of guidelines on conducting cost of production surveys and noted that the draft guidelines have been prepared and shall be made widely available after further validation. There was also an expression of need for technical assistance on this subject.	The draft CoP guidelines were published in the summer of 2014, for feedback from experts/member countries. The final guidelines are being edited for publication, along with country case studies based on the field tests in Colombia, Tunisia and the Philippines. Technical assistance and training would be provided by FAO Statistics Division jointly with the support of the regional office and the Global Strategy and the other interested regional institutions.