



## ASIA AND PACIFIC COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

<b>TWENTY-SIXTH SESSION</b>
<b>Thimphu, Bhutan, 15-19 February 2016</b>
<b>Agenda Item 5.1</b>
<b>Progress with Technical Assistance activities in the region</b>

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## Presentation Outline

- Regional Action Plan (RAP) 2013-17: Outputs and activities
- How TA is implemented
- Progress with SPARS Preparation
- TWG Recommendations on SPARS
- Broad Technical Assistance areas in the region
- TA Implementation: Some highlights



# Regional Action Plan 2013-2017

**Technical Assistance (TA)** in the region is guided by :

- the *Regional Action Plan (RAP)* which assigns the responsibility of the **technical assistance component to FAO**,
- 11 RAP outputs to be produced with specific TA activities in the region in 5 years
- a target to cover 20 countries by 2017.
- New methodologies from Research component and best practices in the region
- **TA process** involves
  - Preparation of SPARS in selected countries
  - Implementing new methodologies/ improving existing ones as per short term priority needs of the country
- **SPARS process** produces 4 main documents/outputs
  - a Roadmap to prepare SPARS
  - an IdCA Report
  - a country proposal paper
  - The SPARS document itself



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RAP Outputs	Technical Assistance planned
Country Specific MSC data (Output B)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Conduct IdCA</li> <li>• Collect baseline information</li> <li>• Develop TA programme</li> </ul>
SPARS (C)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Mainstream agriculture in NSS</li> <li>• Prepare SPARS</li> <li>• Prepare Country Proposal</li> </ul>
Improved Political Support (D)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop business cases</li> <li>• Organize technical meetings/Workshops</li> </ul>
Strengthen Legal and Coordination mechanisms (E)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote legal frameworks</li> <li>• Promote dialogue between producers and users</li> <li>• Adopt best practices on coordination</li> </ul>
Enhance Capacity of NSS to advocate for resources (F)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote best advocacy practices</li> <li>• Prepare Resource Mobilization plan</li> </ul>
Promote access to and use of ICT (G)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Build country capacity to use latest technology /statistical softwares and other IT solutions</li> <li>• Assist to develop/strengthen CountrySTAT and a portal for data dissemination</li> </ul>

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RAP Outputs	Technical Assistance planned
Promote international standards and good practices (H)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In conduct of censuses and developing integrated survey framework using MSF</li> <li>• Improve Administrative Reporting Systems</li> <li>• Data consolidation and comparability among sources and over time</li> </ul>
Strengthen capacity of Training Institutions (I)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Support emergence of regional centres of excellence</li> <li>• Application in-country of acquired technical knowledge</li> </ul>
Use of cost effective and reliable methods (J)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Based on global research and best practices in the region</li> <li>• Assistance to verify reliability and accuracy of data</li> </ul>
Promote use of ag. Statistics in policy-making and planning (K)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Promote timely dissemination</li> <li>• Provide support for cross cutting analysis</li> </ul>

## How TA is implemented

- Each year 4-5 countries are selected. Work in progress in 15 countries.
- SPARS preparation is undertaken as per SPARS Guidelines and involves 3 Phases
  - Launching-
    - A Roadmap is prepared which provides the time-table and the activities leading to SPARS preparation
  - Assessing
    - An IdCA is undertaken and IdCA report prepared
    - CAQ canvassed to generate Country Capacity Indicators
    - A Country Proposal Paper (CPP) is prepared to reflect country priority needs
  - Planning
    - SPARS strategy and plans elaborated
    - SPARS document prepared
- Entire process takes about a year and 4 country missions with support from national and international consultants and NSC
- CPPs are submitted for RSC approval on specific improvement activities that can be implemented with GS funds
- A Technical Working Group (TWG) has been constituted to examine technical issues and recommend country activities for RSC approval
- Approved CPP activities are implemented with GS funds



# List of GS Countries

- 2013 - Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Samoa, Sri Lanka,
- 2014 - Fiji, Georgia, Lao PDR, Myanmar,
- 2015 - Afghanistan, Cambodia, Maldives, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, and Viet Nam,
- 2016 – China, Malaysia, Mongolia and Tonga



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## Progress with SPARS (1/3)

Outputs towards SPARS	2013				
	Bangladesh	Bhutan	Indonesia	Samoa	Sri Lanka
<b>1. National Governance Mechanisms</b>					
1a. National Strategic Coordinator appointed	x	x	x	x	x
1b. Identification and meeting of national stakeholders	x	x	x	x	x
<b>2. Roadmap to SPARS</b>					
2a. Report Drafted	x	x	x	x	x
2b. Report Endorsed	x	x	x	2016	2016
<b>3. In-Depth Country Assessment</b>					
3a. Capacity Assessment Completed	x	x	x	x	x
3b. Report Drafted	x	x	x	x	x
3c. Report Endorsed	x	x	x	x	x
<b>4. Short term Country Proposals</b>					
4a. Proposals Identified	x	x	x	x	x
4b. Proposals Endorsed by Government	x	x	x	x	x
4c. Selected proposals implemented	x	x	x	x	x
<b>5. SPARS Document</b>					
5a. Outline of vision, mission, and objectives drafted	x	x	x	2016	x
5b. SPARS document drafted	2016	2016	x		2016
5c. SPARS endorsed			2016		

### Progress with SPARS (2/3)

	2014			
	Fiji	Georgia	Lao PDR	Myanmar
<b>Outputs towards SPARS</b>				
<b>1. National Governance Mechanisms</b>				
1a. National Strategic Coordinator appointed	x	x	x	x
1b. Identification and meeting of national stakeholders	x	x	x	x
<b>2. Roadmap to SPARS</b>				
2a. Report Drafted	x	x	x	x
2b. Report Endorsed	x	x	x	x
<b>3. In-Depth Country Assessment</b>				
3a. Capacity Assessment Completed	x	x	x	x
3b. Report Drafted	x	x	x	x
3c. Report Endorsed	x	x	2016	2016
<b>4. Short term Country Proposals</b>				
4a. Proposals Identified	x	x	x	2016
4b. Proposals Endorsed by Government	2016	x	x	
4c. Selected proposals implemented		2016	2016	
<b>5. SPARS Document</b>				
5a. Outline of vision, mission, and objectives drafted	2016	x	x	x
5b. SPARS document drafted		x	x	x
5c. SPARS endorsed		2016	2016	2016

### Progress with SPARS (3/3)

	2015						
	Afghanistan	Cambodia	Maldives	Pakistan	Papua New Guinea	Viet Nam	
<b>Outputs towards SPARS</b>							
<b>1. National Governance Mechanisms</b>							
1a. National Strategic Coordinator appointed	x	x	x	x	x	x	
1b. Identification and meeting of national stakeholders	x	x	x	x	x	x	
<b>2. Roadmap to SPARS</b>							
2a. Report Drafted	x	x	x	2016	x	x	
2b. Report Endorsed	2016	x	2016		2016	x	
<b>3. In-Depth Country Assessment</b>							
3a. Capacity Assessment Completed	x	2016	x	2016	2016	x	
3b. Report Drafted	2016		x			2016	x
3c. Report Endorsed			2016				2016
<b>4. Short term Country Proposals</b>							
4a. Proposals Identified	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	
4b. Proposals Endorsed by Government	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	
4c. Selected proposals implemented	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	
<b>5. SPARS Document</b>							
5a. Outline of vision, mission, and objectives drafted	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	2016	
5b. SPARS document drafted	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	
5c. SPARS endorsed	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC	

#### Colour scheme:

Green: Task completed

Orange: Task in Progress and to be completed in 2016

Red: Tasks to be completed (TBC)

# Technical Working Group (TWG)

- Terms of Reference and Constitution
  - ✓ provide a platform for technical discussions on issues arising from country proposals and provide feedback to the RSC
  - ✓ discuss technical assistance provided to selected countries and suggest good practices at the regional level
  - ✓ advise on suitability and operationalization of new methods and technologies from the research component and their implementation in Asia Pacific region
  - ✓ advise on appropriateness of the broad strategic approach in preparing SPARS based on IdCA findings in the selected countries
- First Meeting of TWG
  - ✓ SPARS documents of 4 countries were discussed



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## Recommendations of TWG (1)

- SPARS
  - Matching IdCA findings with solutions proposed
  - Organize SPARS within NSDS framework (if it exists) or other development plans – including the alignment of time periods
  - To be cognizant of data needs (SDG monitoring, etc.)
  - Roles and responsibilities of stakeholders clearly identified
- Coordination models at national and sub-national levels
  - Task force (Bangladesh), MOU (Indonesia and Philippines), and bottom-up approaches (Samoa).
- Role of administrative reporting systems
  - Admn. Rep System, Sample Survey, and Blended (Admin + Sample Survey) systems



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# Recommendations of TWG (2)

- Advocacy of SPARS implementation
  - Champions at highest levels (Improving statistics as an economic objective – Myanmar)
- Improving Human resource (in numbers and capacity)
- Targeted Training (basic, job-specific, management of activities, and advanced topics)
- Guidelines/ Toolkit on collecting agricultural statistics from existing census/ surveys
  - Experience of Samoa [modular approach]; SPC [Standardized HIES]



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## Broad TA Areas in IdCA Reports

- National Minimum Set of Core Data
  - Data gaps bridged
  - Data quality improved
- SPARS prepared and implemented
- Specific Country proposal activities implemented
- Specific Methodological Issues
  - Improving agricultural statistics for National Accounts
  - Better methods for data collection
  - Development of Survey Calendars/ Integrated survey framework
  - Develop Coordination mechanisms (conflicting statistics)
  - Food Balance Sheets, Cost of Production statistics, Ag census/surveys
- Meeting data needs of the line Ministries
  - In-season periodic assessments/ forecasting for policy decisions
  - Improving Administrative Reporting Systems (crops, livestock, fisheries)
- Use of ICT (GIS/GPS/RS) for data collection, processing and dissemination
- Manuals/Instructions for field statistical activities



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# TA Implementation: Some highlights

- Improved Governance/coordination among stakeholders
  - RNR Statistics Committee set up as a permanent body in Bhutan
  - Steering Committee and Technical Committee constituted in Lao PDR
  - SPARS being developed as a component of NSDS in Myanmar: FAO leads ARS Cluster Group
- Improved efforts at resource mobilization
  - SPARS being Coordinated with WB STATCAP project in Indonesia
  - Government mobilizing support for its 8<sup>th</sup> NSED. SPARS requirements presented to Sectoral Working Group for Agriculture and Rural Development (SWG-ARD).
- South- South Cooperation facilitated
  - Study tour of MAIL Afghanistan to NCFC India on use of remote sensing for better agricultural statistics
- Special Approach for Pacific Small Island Countries
  - Workshop organized for developing a Pacific Strategy for Agriculture and Fishery Statistics



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## Feedback/Suggestions?



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