



ASIA AND PACIFIC COMMISSION ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS

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Strategic Planning for Agricultural and Rural Statistics: Issues and Challenges

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How SPARS is different from previous capacity building approaches?

- SPARS is based on comprehensive assessment of system capacity
- It is a comprehensive plan for the entire agricultural and rural sub-sectors, including crops, livestock and fisheries
- It is a plan to serve the diverse social, economic and environmental dimensions of human activities
- It is a plan to support meeting of expanded data requirements for monitoring SDGs
- It is a plan synergised with the development planning and priorities of the country
- It is a plan designed and developed following standardised procedures enriched with global experience



What is so Strategic about SPARS?

- The strategically prepared SPARS document will be **unique national document** to provide **shared vision and action plan** to national agencies and development partners for development of statistics in their respective domain.
- It will define **the architecture for system of data collection** which could be planned in a phased manner as and when resources become available, by different agencies
- The central piece of this plan will be an **integrated system of agriculture census and surveys** which will provide the guidance and support for all data collection in the broad agriculture sector.
 - Integrated data increase scope of analysis
- It will ensure **synergy in the efforts** of different agencies engaged in generation of data, ensuring there by:
 - Coherence in data
 - Cost and effort efficiency
- Mainstreams agricultural and rural statistics



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Strategy or Plan?

- Usually a **Plan** is likely to succeed if its based on a well thought Strategy
- A **Strategy** is the path chosen to realize the goals
 - There may be many options (development path or sequence of activities)
- The Strategy is based on a **vision** which leads to a **mission** which is fulfilled through implementation of a **plan**
- A Strategy alone is not sufficient to realize the goals unless it is converted into concrete plan of action and resources are made available to implement it.
- A plan without a strategic thinking could be a just a set of similar projects not reinforcing each other, and thus can be less effective and may not ensure Optimal Use of available resources.
- **Integration of statistical activities is the Main Strategy** being advocated by the Global Strategy to all countries.

➤ SPARS is both Strategy and a Plan



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What is an Strategy?

- **For whom to produce?:** priority clients
- **What to produce?:** priority needs
- **How to produce?:** methodological choices based upon resource availability

- **Feasible** Not Ideal
- **Optimal** solution in a given situation
- **Flexible:** pace of implementation of plan can accelerate or decelerate without changing the direction of development
 - Sample size may be varied based upon available resources
 - Piggy-backing of survey modules possible.



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Steps for developing a Strategy 1/2

- The Goal (core data for SDG monitoring)
- Problems and challenges (IdCA)
- SWOT analysis (IdCA)
- Brain Storming for Solution Search:
 - without prejudice or compromises
 - Generation of options
- Evaluation of Solutions from the perspective of different stake holders (beneficiaries, Interest group, Donors, Administrators...)
- Developed a shared Vision for (10-15 years)
 - Where to begin
 - Which path to choose
 - Consider both the best case and the worst case scenarios
 - Flexibilities



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Steps for developing a Strategy 2/2

- Plan
 - for both (best and worst case)scenarios
 - Long tem and short term
 - Objectives and concrete results
- Implementation on the basis of available resources (year by year)
- Revision of Plans:
 - Based on mid-term evaluations (M&E)
 - Usually the strategy remains stable e.g. we can not change the “choice of sampling frame types for surveys” in the short term.
 - Having made investments in a specific data collection technology, it may not be wise to change it so rapidly.



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Common Issues and challenges encountered in developing SPARS

- Specifying “what are the **Official Statistics?**”
- **Coordination** mechanism to ensure efficiency of the ARS system as whole, including both official and non-official statistics
- **Roles and responsibilities** of different agencies
 - Survey design
 - Field work
 - Data processing
 - Acceptance of results
- **Resource sharing** arrangements: manpower and finance



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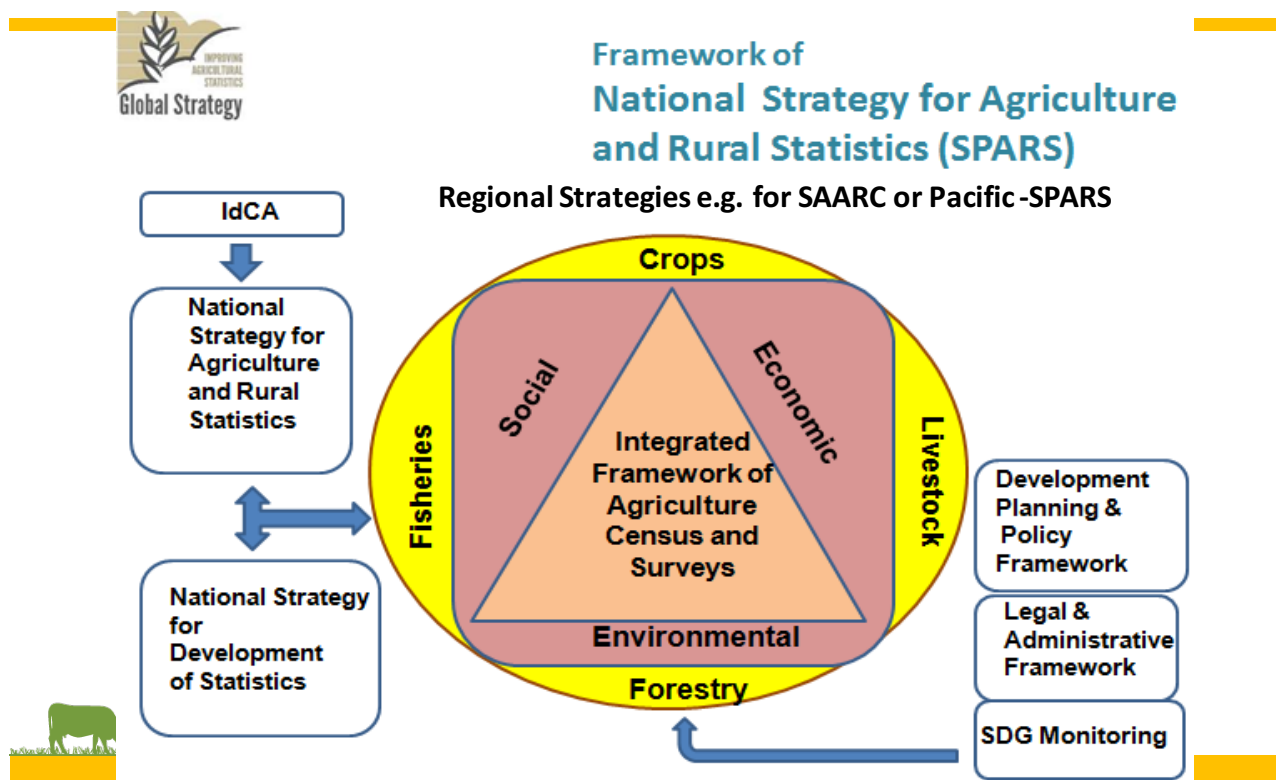
10 Essentials for SPARS Design

1. Backed by political support, nationally led and owned
2. Designed through a sound methodological approach (incl. M&E mechanisms)
3. Mainstreamed into the NSDS national process
4. Covering the whole agricultural and rural sector
5. Policy and results based with a quality fit for purpose
6. Taking into account what is in place and international commitments
7. Drawing on international statistical standards
8. Setting out an integrated and realistic SCB programme, including HR plan
9. Funded as a priority by governments for its implementation
10. Serving as a coherence framework for external assistance



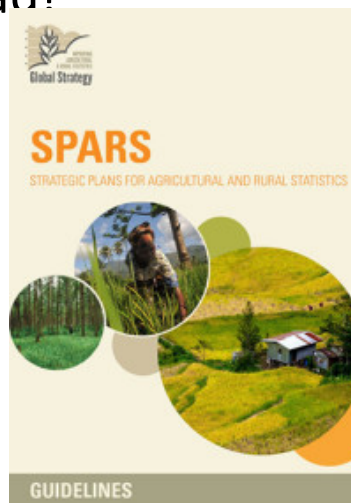
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SPARS Framework



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- Thank You for listening, and
 - Best wishes for good work ahead!

<http://gsars.org/spars-guidelines/>



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