



## 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>Global Strategy: Progress in Lao PDR and experience with developing SPARS</b>

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## Asia and Pacific Commission on Agricultural Statistics

**Twenty-sixth Session**  
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*Progress on Regional Action Plan of Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics*

## Global Strategy: Progress in Lao PDR and experience with developing SPARS

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On behalf of the Lao Delegates

# Topics

1. Outline of Agricultural Statistics System in Lao PDR
2. Main gaps identified during the process
3. How SPARS will fill those gap
4. What strategic decision have been taken
  - Eg decision to concentrate on improving administrative data, while gradually introducing sample surveys
  - Specific decisions about sample frame strategy?
5. How the SPARS related to other govt planning documents such as NSDS, ADB Action Plan for improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics.

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## 1. Outline of Agricultural Statistics System in Lao PDR

- Lao PDR has a partly decentralized statistical system.
  - *The Lao Statistics Bureau (LSB) has overall responsibility for the national statistics system, including preparing the national accounts and conducting national censuses and surveys.*
  - *Each line ministry collects and disseminates statistics in its sector, under guidance from LSB.*
  - *The Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry (MAF) is responsible for statistics for the agricultural sector.*
- A National Strategy for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) has been prepared, covering the period 2010-2020.
- A SPARS is under preparation. An action plan for improving agricultural and rural statistics (ARS) was prepared in 2013.
- Agricultural statistics are based on administrative reporting, with data being transmitted weekly from villages to districts to provinces to MAF central office.
- Agricultural censuses were conducted in 1998/99 and 2010/11.

## 2. Main gaps identified during the process

- The agricultural statistics system has the weaknesses inherent in any administrative reporting system.
- Data are often not transmitted on time because of weaknesses in the ICT infrastructure.
- The administrative reporting system only provides data on crop area/production and livestock numbers. There are serious data gaps, such as cost of production, agricultural prices and food stocks.
- Data are not widely disseminated.

## 3. How SPARS will fill those gap

- The first step in implementing the Global Strategy in a country is to carry out an In-depth Country Assessment (IdCA). This report presents the results of this assessment for Lao PDR. The report was prepared by FAO in collaboration with major agricultural statistics stakeholders in the country. The report describes the agricultural statistics system in Lao PDR, identifies data weaknesses and gaps, sets out the minimum set of core agricultural and rural data for the country, assesses the resources available for agricultural statistics, and provides information to help in determining technical assistance requirements and to prepare the SPARS for Lao PDR.

### 3. How SPARS will fill those gap (Continue...)

- Goal 1. Improving Regulation and Institutional Frameworks for Agricultural and Rural Statistics.
- Goal 2: Developing Statistical Infrastructure for Agricultural and Rural Statistics.
- Goal 3: Managing and Developing Agricultural and Rural Statistics.

### 3. How SPARS will fill those gap (Continue...)

- ***Goal 1: improving regulation and institutional frameworks for agricultural and rural statistics.***
  - Output 1.1. Effective coordination mechanisms among agricultural and rural statistics stakeholders.
  - Output 1.2. Adequate number of trained staff on agricultural and rural statistics hired.
- ***Goal 2: developing statistical infrastructure for agricultural and rural statistics.***
  - Output 2.1. Adequate training programmes developed and implemented.
  - Output 2.2. Adequate data collection equipment and support mechanisms available.
- ***Goal 3: managing and developing agricultural and rural statistics.***
  - Output 3.1. Uniform standards, concepts and methods on agricultural and rural statistics developed and applied across all districts and government agencies.
  - Output 3.2. Good and appropriate data collection methods adopted.
  - Output 3.3. Data dissemination system developed and applied.

# Draft SPARS: Sub-outputs for Output 3.2

- Output 3.2. Good and appropriate data collection methods adopted.
  - 3.2.1 The required agricultural and rural indicators produced and additional indicators developed.
  - 3.2.2 Sound methodology for the estimation of value added for the agricultural sector developed and implemented.
  - 3.2.3 Improved administrative reporting system for agricultural and rural statistics implemented.
  - 3.2.4 Master sample frame for agricultural surveys established.
  - 3.2.5 Third agricultural census conducted and results disseminated.
  - 3.2.6 Regular crop condition reports prepared and disseminated.
  - 3.2.7 Improved system for crop production statistics implemented.
  - 3.2.8 Programme of agricultural sample surveys implemented and results disseminated.
  - 3.2.9 Statistical system for agricultural price statistics implemented.

## 4. What strategic decision have been taken

### **Outline of Main Activities for SPARS**

1. Better coordinate the collection of agricultural and rural statistics in the field.
2. Improve organization of statistics in MAF and increase staffing levels.
3. Train statistical staff at all levels.
4. Improve ICT facilities at all levels.
5. Prepare manual on definitions, concepts and methods in agricultural and rural statistics.
6. Prepare and disseminate monthly crop condition reports.
7. Improve administrative reporting system.
8. Introduce rice crop cutting surveys to improve rice production statistics.
9. Conduct regular agricultural sample surveys to supplement data from the administrative reporting system.
10. Implement system for agricultural prices statistics.
11. Develop and implement data dissemination system.

5. How the SPARS related to other govt planning documents such as NSDS, ADB Action Plan for improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics.

- The SPARS is currently being drafted and will be finalized in the first half of 2016.
- The SPARS goals are the same as the NSDS strategies so that the SPARS is integrated into the NSDS.
- The SPARS outputs are the same as the ARS outputs.
- The sub-outputs for Output 3.2 provide more detail on activities than given the ARS.

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## ADB Activities in Support of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics

- Completed activities
  - Consultation with major stakeholders of agricultural and rural statistics in Lao PDR (November 2012)
  - Drafting of country action plans
  - High level meetings in Lao PDR in September 2013 to
    - showcase the importance of agricultural and rural statistics for informed decision-making;
    - solicit support for the implementation of the country action plan; and
    - advocate for adequate resources for agricultural and rural statistics.
  - Approval and endorsement of the Lao PDR action plans in December 2013

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# Ongoing Research Activities

## Lao PDR

- Comparative Analysis of Estimates from Household Surveys, Census of Agriculture and Administrative Reporting System

Completed activities:

- Datasets examined and compiled (National Vulnerability and Risk Survey, Lao Expenditure and Consumption Survey, Census of Agriculture and the annual publication from administrative reporting system)
- Analytical framework drafted

- Designing Crops and Livestock Production Sample Surveys Using Census of Agriculture as Sampling Frame

Completed activities:

- Basic Training on Statistics was conducted for technical staff of the Center for Agricultural Statistics in September 2013

# Ongoing Research Activities

- ADB is currently assisting MAF with work on evaluating the feasibility of using satellite imagery for estimating the area of rice planted in the 2015 wet season in one province (Savannakhet), based on the INAHOR (International Asian Harvest Monitoring System for Rice) system. An area sample approach is being used. The province has been divided into 3 000 meshes of size 300 metres square. A sample of 120 meshes will be selected and the area under rice in each mesh will be estimated using satellite imagery. This will be verified by a field survey where the area under rice is estimated using Global Positioning System (GPS) units. A sub-sample of meshes is to be selected to undertake crop cutting surveys. The methodology has promise but there could be operational, cost and sampling error issues.

## Concluding Remarks

- GS implementation has considerably raised the expectations of the Stakeholders to improve the ARS in the country
- Both producers and users of ARS have participated in the process
- SPARS development and implementation is a high priority area for the country.
- GS has shown the way. However, SPARS implementation will face challenges on funding the improvement activities
- Development Partners support is crucial to SPARS implementation and we look forward to their continued support to fulfill the vision.

**Thank you**

