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Country Assessment in the Region

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Global Strategy

IMPROVING AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL STATISTICS
IN ASIA PACIFIC



Country Assessment in the Region

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Presentation Outline

- Background
- Dimensions of the FAO Capacity Assessment framework and the Country Capacity Indicators
- Iterations of the Country Assessment Questionnaire used in Asia Pacific
- Lessons learnt and the further assessments in the region
- Preliminary results from the Pacific



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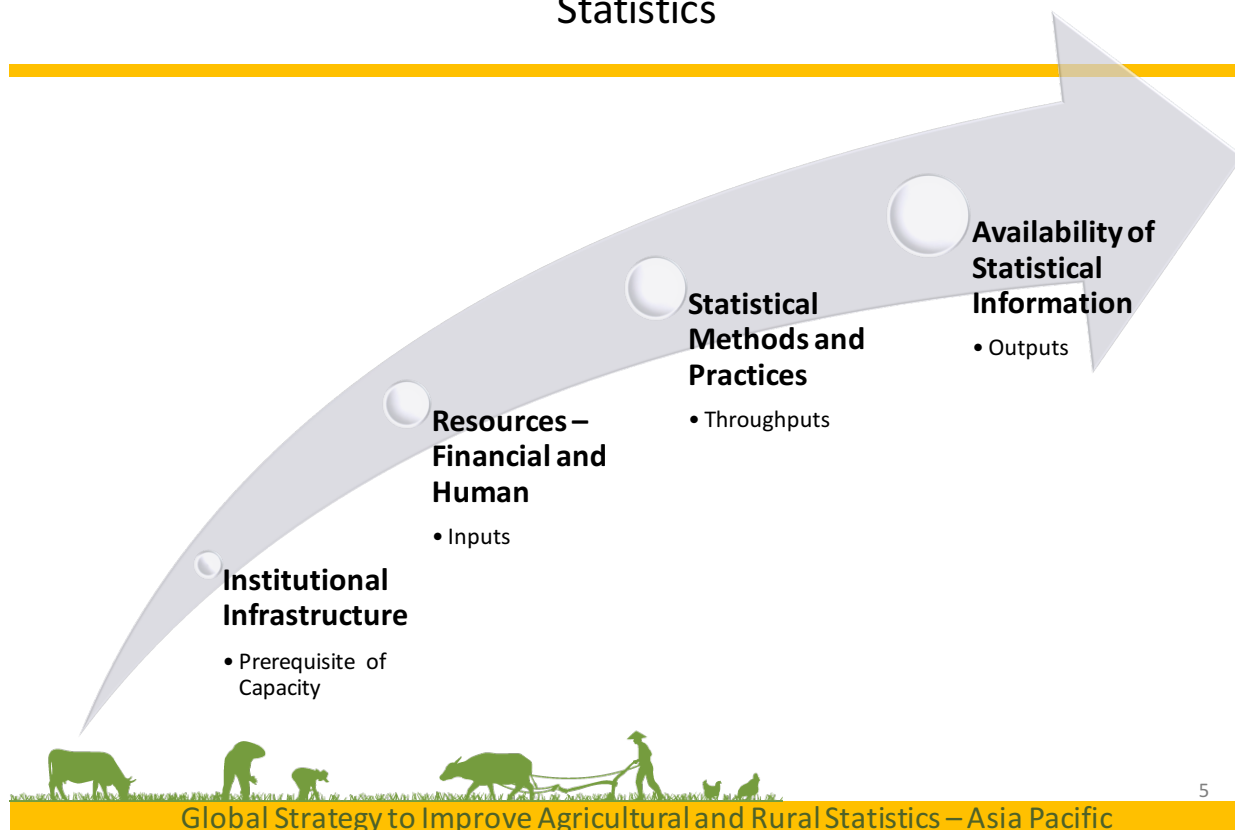
Background

- **Defining Capacity**
 - Capacity is a state or inherent condition of a system. Outcome of a complex combination of institutional infrastructure, organizations, commitments, attitudes, resources, strategies and skills.
- **Needs for Capacity Assessment**
 - A nation's capacity to produce coherent, reliable and timely ARS is **key to effective agricultural planning** and programs
 - Agricultural development is vital to **achieving the Sustainable Development Goals**
 - assessing the statistical capacity of countries is the **first step** in implementing the ***Global Strategy Action Plan***
- **Basis of the Assessment Framework**
 - Built on concepts from the IMF Data Quality Assessment Framework, the World Bank Capacity Assessment Indicators, and PARIS21's *Capacity Assessment Framework*.



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Dimensions of Capacity Assessment for Agricultural and Rural Statistics



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Agricultural and Rural Statistics Capacity Framework (1/2)

Institutional Infrastructure (PREREQUISITES)

- 1.1. Legal Framework
- 1.2. Coordination in the Agricultural Statistical System
- 1.3. Strategic Vision and Planning for Agricultural Statistics
- 1.4. Integration of Agriculture in the National Statistics System
- 1.5. Relevance of data (user interface)

Resources (INPUT DIMENSION)

- 2.1 Financial Resources
- 2.2 Human Resources: Staffing
- 2.3 Human Resources: Training
- 2.4 Physical Infrastructure

Agricultural and Rural Statistics Capacity Framework (2/2)

Statistical Methods and Practices (THROUGHPUT DIMENSION)

- 3.1 Statistical Software Capability
- 3.2 Data Collection Technology
- 3.3 IT infrastructure
- 3.4 General Statistical Infrastructure
- 3.5 Adoption of International Standards
- 3.6 General Statistical Activities
- 3.7 Agricultural Market and Price Information
- 3.8 Agricultural Surveys
- 3.9 Analysis and Use of Data
- 3.10 Quality of Surveys

Availability of Statistical Information (OUTPUT DIMENSION)

- 4.1 Core Data Availability
- 4.2 Timeliness
- 4.3 Usability of data
- 4.4 Data Accessibility



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Iterations of the Country Assessment Questionnaire used in Asia Pacific

- 2011 Country Assessment Questionnaire
 - Conducted in 2011-12 with responses from 38 countries in the region. In-depth Country Assessments.
 - Conducted in 15 implementing countries of the Global Strategy in Asia Pacific, and other GS implementing regions.
- Light Questionnaire for the Pacific Island Countries based on lessons learnt from previous deployments.



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Lessons learnt from the deployment of the Country Assessment Questionnaire

- **Responding to issues of non-response in the region**
 - Subsequent versions of the CAQ included comprehensive guidelines for the filling of the questionnaire
 - Participants in relevant workshops were sensitized to the components of the questionnaire
 - Regional Office provided one-on-one support to respondents through online communication channels (ie. Helpdesk)
- **Capturing capacity issues beyond the scope of the Country Assessment Framework**
 - The In-depth Country Assessment utilized the CAQ as a tool to quickly identify areas for further assessment through interviews and workshops.
 - Subsequent versions introduced open questions that allowed respondents to more accurately convey capacity issues in their country



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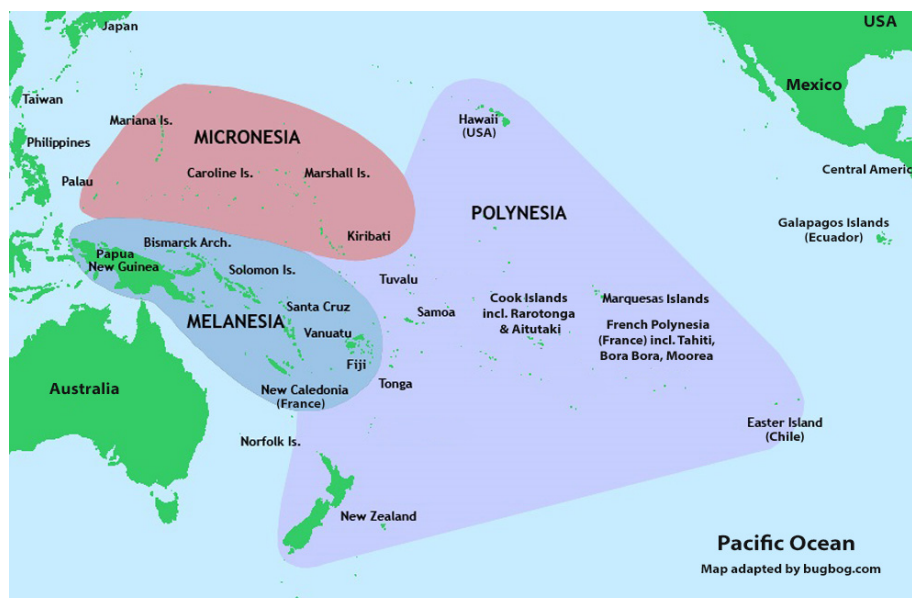
Further assessments in the region

- **Areas for further improvement?**
 - Improving support for the filling of the questionnaire
 - Improvements to better capture country specific issues



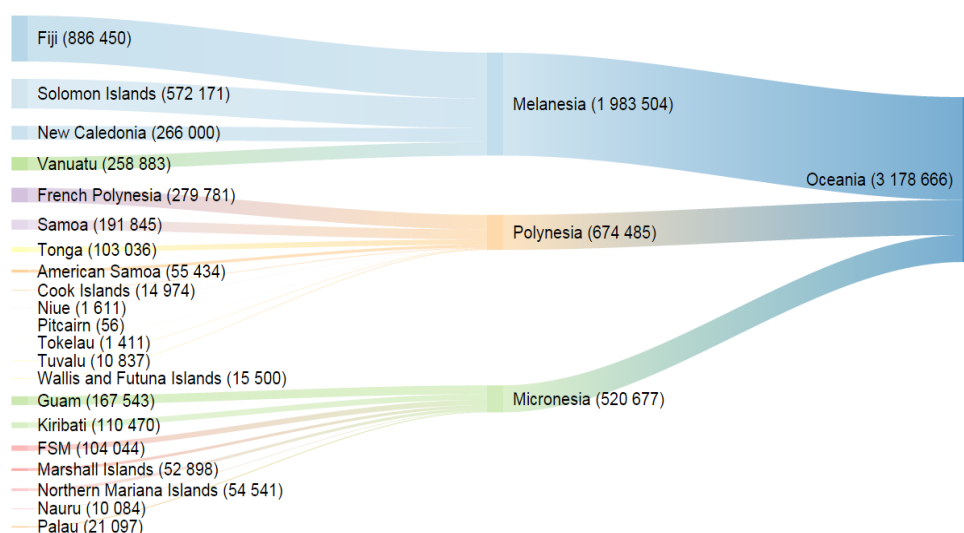
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Preliminary Results from the assessment of capacity in the Pacific Island Countries



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Characteristics of the Pacific Island Countries



Population of Pacific Island Countries as a share of Oceania



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Identified Areas for Technical Assistance in Pacific Island Countries

- **Data Availability.** There is a need for more accurate and reliable agricultural data that is comparable over time and across countries.
- **Coordination.** There is a need for better collaboration and harmonization across agencies plus also national, regional and global approaches. This includes linkages across sectoral and national plans and frameworks to ensure statistics have a greater alignment with national priorities.
- **Advocacy.** There is a need for more usage of existing and planned statistical data, in particular increased inclusion of agricultural data in evidence-based policy making and development decisions.



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Identified Areas for Technical Assistance in Pacific Island Countries (cont'd)

- **Remoteness.** Accessibility and transport, such as to remote islands or highlands.
- **Resources.** Human resources in terms of the number of staff as well as technical capacity of staff, and the need to build on existing systems and capacity with a focus on sustainability.
- **Technology.** The need for more Information Technology (IT) support and collaboration.
- **Introduction of Standards and Classifications.** Inconsistencies of classifications (i.e. general “bundles” of produce versus specific kilograms)



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Responding to the needs of the Pacific Island Countries

- Human resources in statistics is scarce and greater regional cooperation provides a modality for the pooling of resources and a platform for greater knowledge sharing.
- Advocacy for the use of statistics in evidence based policy making is crucial in improving sustainability of statistical activities
- Improvements in ICT hold potential for introducing cost effective methods in a region that is large in geo-graphic scope.
- In a region with limited resources, it is important to leverage on-going statistical activities (ie. Including agriculture related questions to major statistical surveys and censuses).



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Thank You!



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