



**Global Strategy**  
IMPROVING AG-STATISTICS



# **Global Strategy Research Plan**

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**Methodological development for internationally comparable  
environmental-economic accounts for agriculture**

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**A Global Strategy Research Item  
Lead by Robert Mayo**

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## I. Background

**The endorsement of the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting (SEEA) Central Framework by United Nations Statistical Commission** in March 2012 provides the first international standard for environmental-economic accounting. This statistical standard is an important step forward in integrating economic activity and the environment to better understand implications pertaining to the sustainability of different patterns of production and consumption. This paper describes work being initiated by the Statistics Division of FAO to develop an extension to the SEEA Central Framework that captures the specific relationships between the agricultural sector and the natural environment. This is defined as the System of Integrated Environmental and Economic Accounting for Agriculture (SEEA-AGRI). Within this framework, agriculture is interpreted in the broad sense as all activities related to crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries with a primary and intensive use of environmental goods and services. This is different from other extensions (subsystems) of the SEEA Central Framework in the sense that rather than focusing on one specific *resource*, SEEA-AGRI focuses on one *group of activities*, and considers the relationship between these activities with the related environmental assets.

### 1. The need of an accounting framework for agriculture and the environment

The System of National Accounts (SNA) consists of a coherent, consistent and integrated set of macroeconomic accounts which constitutes the primary source of information about the economy now widely used for analysis and decision-making in virtually all countries. While it provides practical measures of macroeconomic performance, the SNA fails to reflect the full costs and benefits to society of economic activities. One of the main shortcomings of the SNA is that the impact of the environment on the economy and the effects of the latter on natural capital have not been readily identifiable within the economic accounts generated. The SEEA Central Framework augments traditional national accounts to integrate economic and environmental statistics in an internationally agreed manner that allows for an evaluation of the environmental sustainability of economic activity.

There are two main groups of reasons that justify the use of an accounting framework for agriculture and the environment based on the SNA/SEEA structure: reasons related to the need to unravel the relationships between agriculture and the environment, and reasons that deal with the methodological and statistical enhancements to be derived from exploiting an established analytical accounting framework.

When exploring the ***relationships between agriculture and the environment***, conventional accounts only cover the economic performance and functions of agriculture as reflected in market activities and their evolution over time. In that context, the SEEA Central Framework is a useful tool to evaluate the environmental sustainability of those industries and activities making extensive use of natural resources, either as inputs or as sinks. On the one hand, the relationship between the environment and agriculture is such that natural environments provide a form of infrastructure and a flow of economically valuable and critical environmental assets such as land, soil and water to agricultural activity. On the other hand, agricultural activities may contribute significantly to soil erosion, land degradation and water quality changes.

An important distinction to be made is between those assets that can be attributed to agriculture, and those that cannot. From there, two types of accounting adjustments may be distinguished for

agricultural assets. The first would focus on the services derived from the land based stock of assets (habitat and species, landscape, etc). The second would consider the impact of agricultural activities on the ability of these assets to provide environmental services (e.g. sink functions), either by modifying the quality or quantity of the assets being considered.

Furthermore, agriculture also may produce some benefits (or costs) that are not registered nor valued in the system of national accounts, including ecosystem services such as carbon sequestration, habitat for wildlife, mitigation of droughts and floods, among others. The environmental services that flow from these should be attributed as additional income to the agricultural sector, in order to fully account for the sector's contribution to growth and GDP. In that context, a monetised environmental account for agriculture would provide an economic measure of the sustainability of the related activities; an accurate value of their contribution to a nation's wellbeing; an indication of the extent to which agriculture affects the welfare generated by other sectors; and, useful information (inputs) for policy-making and cost benefit analysis for agricultural and related environmental policies.

From the **methodological perspective**, applying the SEEA Central Framework to agriculture will help improve the conceptual basis and analytical capability of agriculture statistics, which is the goal of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (GS).<sup>1</sup> The SEEA-AGRI can play an important role in many aspects relating to the implementation of the GS, among others, three are of special importance. First, adopting a macroeconomic accounts approach for developing a statistical framework has the advantage of applying a set of SNA-based standard classifications upon which consistent and comprehensive sets of data series can be compiled. Second, the resulting accounts can provide a complete set of variables for identifying and designing a core and minimum set of agricultural indicators, aligned with the SEEA Central Framework, and applicable across a wide range of developing and emerging market economies. Third, a macroeconomic accounts approach for a statistical framework also responds to the need of having a multipurpose information system that can be used to combine and harmonize data from various surveys and censuses together into an integrated database that supports policy making and analysis.

## **2. Integrating agriculture activities in one framework**

Primary activities rooted in the physical environment (e.g. agriculture, forestry and fishing), are major sources of countries' wealth. Agriculture as defined by the International Standard Industrial Classification of All Economic Activities (ISIC) includes the exploitation of vegetal and animal natural resources, comprising the activities of growing of crops, raising and breeding of animals, harvesting of timber and other plants, animals or animal products from a farm or their natural habitats. ISIC revision 4, Section A, is divided in three Divisions: (01) Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities; (02) Forestry and logging; and (03) Fishing and aquaculture (UNSD, 2011).

There are at least two important reasons for the inclusion and integration of agricultural activity in one accounting framework. The first is that *the three Divisions under ISIC revision 4, Section A represent activities that are major users of one or more environmental assets*, in particular soil, water, biological resources, land and ecosystems. These activities as a whole (including livestock grazing in the case of agriculture and aquaculture in the case of fishing) might occupy a significant

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.fao.org/economic/ess/ess-capacity/ess-strategy/en/>

portion of the economically available (exploitable) land in developing countries.<sup>2</sup> Furthermore it is not unusual to find farms that are engaged in more than one of these activities and it is not uncommon for agricultural surveys and censuses to include some information about these activities. As a result, the benefits of evaluating and monitoring the rational and sustainable use of the environment vis-à-vis these activities in an integrated accounting framework is invaluable for medium to long-term policy formulation for agricultural, land use and related environmental and ecosystem issues.

The second reason is that *the three Divisions under ISIC revision 4, Section A are strongly related to basic population needs* (food, energy, shelter and other raw materials). Thus, it is strongly advisable to explore the potential of the SEEA Central Framework to agriculture in order to include and address important issues related to food security. The need for integrated and cross sector information that can be useful for decision making in a complex and globalized world is a challenge that can, in large part, be addressed from an extension of the SEEA Central Framework to agriculture.

The SEEA-AGRI envisaged by FAO would have the potential to consistently analyse important trends and give insights about relevant environmental, economic and social issues such as the increase of water demand and abstraction, land use changes, forest clearing, etc., at the macro and national level. Furthermore this information could be related to the physical food balances and other types of analysis elaborated by FAO in order to assess the impact of such phenomenon on food security.

### **3. Scope and coverage of SEEA-AGRI**

The SEEA-AGRI can be defined as a comprehensive and standard satellite account for the integration of agricultural and environmental data based upon internationally agreed concepts, definitions, classifications and inter-related tables and accounts that universally valid, regardless of the stage of economic development reached by the country.

The SEEA-AGRI aims to translate policy issues into data needs and requirements in a standard and coherent manner by:

- Enhancing the use of existing agricultural statistics and related common frameworks (supply and utilization tables and food balances, etc.) through the integration of basic statistics consistent with the SNA;
- Providing a consistent, comprehensive, and coordinating framework to link data collected by different surveys and censuses together to build up an integrated database;
- Providing a sound basis for the measurement of a set of economic, social, and environmental indicators for agriculture and rural development aligned with FAO's narrow and broad definitions of agriculture, respectively;
- Providing a framework to expand the analytical capabilities of the original FAO SEAFA and related past FAO initiatives (Fishery and Forestry Accounts);

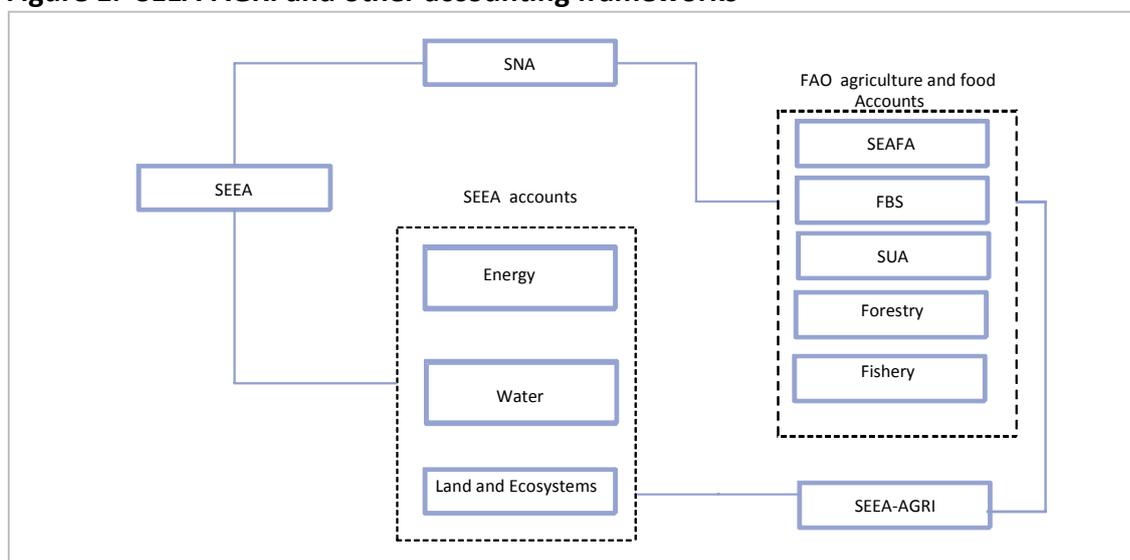
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<sup>2</sup> The SEEA identifies as an environmental asset agricultural land distinguishing between i) cultivated land (for temporary crops, for permanent plantations, for kitchen gardens and temporarily fallow land); ii) pasture land (improved and natural); and iii) other agricultural land. Additionally, the SEEA recommends compiling information about irrigated land in order to establish water abstraction from agricultural production, even if this abstraction may not be associated to an economic or market transaction.

- Providing a framework that links to other SEEA subsystems being articulated by other agencies (Ecosystems, Energy, etc.).

When looking at agricultural activities within the evolving SEEA-AGRI, agriculture interpreted in a broader sense (i.e. crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries), can be placed at the centre of the analysis, allowing for the assessment of the interactions with other sectors, but concentrating on looking at the particular indicators pertaining to environment-economy relationships. This framework can be considered an extension of the SEEA Central Framework, one with a primary and intensive use of environmental goods and services (Figure 1). This is different from other subsystems of the SEEA in the sense that rather than focusing on one specific *resource*, it focuses on one *group of activities*, and considers the relationship between these activities with the related environmental assets. Thus, specific aspects of other accounts (e.g. water accounts) are used in the SEEA-AGRI.

**Figure 1. SEEA-AGRI and other accounting frameworks**



As shown in Figure 1, on one side, the SEEA-AGRI links to the SEEA Central Framework and its strengths while providing new elements of analysis which are not necessarily incorporated in the Central Framework (in figure 1 only some specific SEEA and some existing FAO accounts are shown). In turn, the SEEA Central Framework and its other subsystems provide elements that are of interest for the SEEA-AGRI (e.g. water abstraction and consumption for agricultural activities). On the other side, FAO's current frameworks, mainly Food Balance Sheets (FBS) and Supply and Utilization Accounts (SUA), among others, may be completely integrated. Furthermore, previous SNA-based FAO efforts (e.g., System of Economic Accounts for Food and Agriculture (SEAFA)) may be conceptually incorporated into SEEA-AGRI. The relationship of the agriculture related accounts (SEAFA, SUA, FBS) and the environmental related accounts (e.g., SEEA-Water, SEEA-Ecosystems, and FAO's recent work on Agri-Environmental Indicators) highlight crosscutting themes that can be addressed when integrating the frameworks shown in Figure 1.

In order to achieve a well-articulated SEEA-AGRI that allows for the broadening of analysis through physical and hybrid supply and use tables, covering flows of products, residuals, natural resources and ecosystem services, the subsystem should take into account the four different categories of accounts of the Central Framework design:

- **Asset accounts.** These incorporate different natural assets and its changes during the accounting period in physical and monetary values. They are relevant to the measurement of sustainable development from the capital perspective within approaches of weak or strong sustainability. They also help to determine where income is arising from the use of resources and how it is apportioned between the extractor and the owner. Thus, they are relevant to the intra- and inter-generational equity issues of sustainable development.
- **Flow accounts.** These are divided into physical and hybrid flow accounts. They provide information at the industry level about the use of materials as inputs to production and final demand and the generation of pollutants and solid waste. The objective is to see the extent to which the economy is dependent on particular environmental inputs and the sensitivity of the environment to particular economic activities.
- **Environmental protection accounts.** These accounts identify expenditures in the conventional SNA incurred by industry, government and households to protect the environment or manage resources. Environmental protection accounts are used to compile environmental expenditures by activities and products. They give an assessment of the economic costs and benefits, including sectorial impact, of reducing human impact on the environment.
- **Adjusted macro indicators.** The SEEA recommends adjustments to the main aggregates which include indicators of sustainability such as environmentally adjusted net domestic product (eaNDP). These accounts implicitly adopt the perspective of weak sustainability. The aim of these accounts is to extend SNA aggregates to account for depletion, defensive expenditures and degradation.

For the accounts just mentioned, in many cases, measurement in physical as well as in monetary values is possible, but in other cases (i.e. most of the agri-environmental services valuation) valuation is still a subject under discussion, however hybrid indicators are usually possible within the framework. The various accounts will be integrated with the work on Agri-environmental indicators, as the indicators to the most part will flow from the accounts.

Specifically, in collaboration with the existing Monitoring and Assessment of Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Mitigation Potential in Agriculture work program, FAO Statistics Division (ESS) is developing methodological applications of — and country capacity pertaining to — the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting (SEEA). The SEEA Central Framework was adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission in 2012 as the first international standard for environmental-economic accounting. The SEEA Central Framework contains the agreed standard concepts, definitions, classifications, accounting rules and tables for producing internationally comparable statistics on the environment and its relationship with the economy. The SEEA methodology follows a similar accounting structure as the System of National Accounts in order to facilitate the integration of environmental and economic statistics.

The main emphasis will initially be on applications of the SEEA Central Framework to Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries, and development of the related physical flow, environmental activity, and asset accounts for land, water and energy, as relevant, along with a preliminary articulation of an integrated presentation of these. Where appropriate, relevant elements of the additional portions of the SEEA, namely Experimental Ecosystem Accounts and relevant Applications and Extensions (SEEA Water and SEEA Energy) will be used to expand and elaborate on the

methodological guidance included in the SEEA Central Framework. A key feature of this initiative is the leveraging of diverse FAO dataset, datasets maintained by national authorities available on-line, and data of other international organizations and their standardization to common SEEA-related concepts and definitions pertaining to the agriculture sector, broadly defined as crops, livestock, aquaculture and agroforestry.

One of the main concerns is that a great deal of data may be required to implement the accounts pertaining to a minimum required dataset SEEA-AGRI and these data may not completely exist in many developing and emerging market countries. Furthermore, the accuracy of the data collected is usually filled with uncertainties. These are known shortcomings of the basic data and core indicators currently provided by countries already managed at the global level by FAO and published through FAOSTAT. In this regard, the preparation of SEEA-CF tables on Water, Forestry, Fisheries, Energy, Land and Agriculture from primarily data currently available in FAO will provide a good view on where SEEA-AGRI development efforts need to be focused.

## **II. Related work**

### **United Nations**

The United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD) has been the overall coordinator and developer of the SEEA. The Coordination of the implementation of the SEEA and on-going work on new methodological developments is managed and supervised by the [UN Committee of Experts on Environmental-Economic Accounting](#) (UNCEEA). The Environmental-Economic Accounts Section of UNSD is the Secretariat to the UNCEEA.

[The London Group on Environmental Accounting](#) has played a leading role over the years in advancing the methodologies of environmental-economic accounts and in providing a forum for sharing national and international expertise in the field. The most notable accomplishments of the London Group have been its contribution to the System of Environmental Economic Accounting Central Framework (SEEA-Central Framework) which was adopted as the international statistical standard for environmental economic accounts at the forty-third session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, and to the System of Environmental-Economic Accounting for Water (SEEA-Water), which was adopted as an interim international statistical standard at the thirty-eighth session of the United Nations Statistical Commission. Work on the additional portions of the SEEA, namely Experimental Ecosystem Accounts and Applications and Extensions, is on-going.

The United Nations Committee of Experts on Environmental Economic Accounting (UNCEEA) and the London Group on Environmental Accounting (LG) are the best forums for review and discussion towards development of agri-environmental accounting.<sup>3</sup> In that context, FAO Statistics Division will work with the LG — establishing a SEEA-AGRI Subgroup — to advance (and mainstream) the methodologies on environmental-economic accounting to food and agricultural statistics and the related databases maintained across FAO.

The implementation of the SEEA-AGRI will be supported by establishment of a working sub-group under the umbrella of UNCEEA/LG and a FAO-specific interdepartmental Task Force that will work

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<sup>3</sup> Additional information on the London Group and the UNCEEA in:  
<http://unstats.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/londongroup/> <http://mdgs.un.org/unsd/envaccounting/ceea/default.asp>

to address specific issues and take the leading role in developing guidelines and recommendations.

Within this framework the SEEA-AGRI should ensure consistency in the classifications, concepts, definitions and policy applications through extensive and timely consultations with partner countries and at the international level. This collaboration with national experts and other specialists will facilitate piloting the SEEA-AGRI among selected countries in Africa, Asia, and the Latin America/Caribbean region. These possible country applications of an evolving SEEA-AGRI will assist in addressing those methodological aspects that still need to be resolved within the SEEA Central Framework in the context of countries where data is not necessarily accessible in terms of quantity and quality. The initial work will involve relying on current data collected and available to FAO (mainly internal FAO datasets, sourced from national statistical reporting to FAO). This approach to developing the initial tables will provide us with a good indication of the possibilities of putting together the SEEA-AGRI from current data.

The proposed roadmap should include the following main five complementary and overlapping stages in a month process which is expected to come to completion at the end of 2014:

- A. Organization: A priority task is taking the necessary actions to implement this decision in a manner that can support the cross-cutting nature of SEEA-AGRI. This will include setting the FAO internal interdepartmental coordination mechanisms that can support each of the five stages. From an FAO external perspective the October 2012 meeting of the London Group on Environmental Accounting provided a forum for establishing an informal group of experts, soliciting views on the scope of the project, and obtaining commitments on specific contributions.
- B. Conceptualization: Reviewing, revising and expanding the definitions and classifications used in relevant FAO datasets is an essential element of FAO efforts aimed at developing a SEEA-AGRI framework. Similarly, a stock taking and evaluation of developing and emerging market country specific examples in terms of Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries accounts, respectively, that can inform and serve as an input to SEEA-AGRI development will be conducted. Alignment with other SEEA extensions and relevant regional (e.g., E.U.) work will also be established. This involves development of the related physical flow, environmental activity, and asset accounts for land, water and energy, as relevant, along with a preliminary articulation of an integrated presentation of these. Where appropriate, relevant elements of the additional portions of the SEEA, namely Experimental Ecosystem Accounts and relevant Applications and Extensions (SEEA Water and SEEA Energy) will be used to expand and elaborate on the methodological guidance included in the SEEA Central Framework. A key feature of this initiative is the leveraging of diverse FAO datasets, datasets maintained by national authorities available on-line, and data of other international organizations and their standardization to common SEEA-related concepts and definitions pertaining to the agriculture sector, broadly defined as crops, livestock, aquaculture and agroforestry.
- C. Consultation: Countries will be asked to consider contributing to this role, which will also include London Group experts from national statistical agencies and other international organizations. The SEEA-AGRI subgroup of the London Group is intended to meet twice supported by quarterly teleconferences, while the FAO Internal Meetings should occur on a monthly basis. Both forms of consultation are intended to provide an on-going forum for

review, comparison and discussion of methodological work underway towards development of the SEEA-AGRI accounts.

- D. Pilot application and feedback: FAO will work with two pilot countries from APCAS and AFCAS members, respectively, supplemented by an additional country from the Latin America/Caribbean region. Pilot applications will illustrate the data demands, technical capabilities, and the analytical possibilities to be derived from the minimum required, recommended, and desired SEEA-AGRI datasets to be outlined in the final document prepared.
- E. Drafts and final document: This will be an iterative process, informed by stages A-D above. It is expected that a final draft of SEEA-AGRI will be ready by the end of 2014 and then be submitted to the United Nations Statistical Commission.

### **III. Expected Outputs and Activities by year**

#### **FAO**

The proposed research activities will be coordinated by ESS and a SEEA-AGRI consultant with some of the thematic SEEA's (e.g. SEEA-Fishery, SEEA Forestry) being partially funded by the Global Strategy during 2013. The activities of the SEEA-AGRI consultant will:

- Closely collaborate with and provide guidance to the FAO Departments and topical divisions where consultants dealing with SEEA-Land, SEEA-Water, SEEA-Energy, SEEA-Forestry, SEEA-Fisheries, and SEEA-Agriculture specific issues will be recruited, including the preparation and organization of regular monthly topical meetings with all SEEA-related consultants and related FAO staff.
- Lead development of preliminary physical flow accounts for the agricultural sector (e.g., whether related to production, consumption or accumulation) in the form of Physical Supply and Use Tables, giving emphasis to those components (energy use, the abstraction of water, and air-emissions) that are aligned with the SEEA classifications and measurement units pertaining to natural inputs, products, and residuals.
- Lead development of preliminary Asset Accounts recording the opening and closing stock of relevant Agriculture, Forestry, and Fisheries environmental assets and the different types of changes in the stock over the accounting period. Investigate how the use of this information, and its combination with valuations of produced and financial assets, can be used to provide broader estimates of national wealth.
- Lead development of detailed System of National Accounts-based sequence of economic accounts for agriculture (time-series covering production, generation of income, allocation of primary income, distribution of secondary income, use of disposable income, and capital accounts) as the basis for the articulation of the SEEA Central Framework depletion adjusted balancing items and aggregates, (adjusted measures of value added, operating surplus, savings and net lending/borrowing).

- Provide suggestions on the integration of SEEA-Agri research into the three pillars of conceptual framework of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics, i.e., the minimum set of core data, the integration of agriculture into national statistical systems, and capacity building, as relevant.

### **The Outputs of the SEEA-AGRI consultant will include:**

A preliminary SEEA-Agriculture presentation — and related documentation — to be articulated for discussion by the London Group on Environmental Accounting.

A preliminary SEEA-Agriculture set of accounts — and related documentation — to be completed for selected African countries to facilitate discussion by national experts attending the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS).

A report to the GS Research Coordinator evaluating and summarizing data availability (and gaps) along with the relevance of existing FAO methodologies to prepare SEEA-Agriculture accounts. The report will provide suggestions on the integration of SEEA-Agri into GS activities related to the minimum set of core data (economic, environmental, and social statistics).

- Recommendations on FAO dataset improvements provided, where relevant.
- SEEA-Agriculture Database structure and relationship to the monitoring of FAO Strategic Objectives proposed.
- CountrySTAT and FAOSTAT presentations proposed and agreed.
- Findings presented to the GS Research Coordinator and in FAO (ES and other Departments) Management seminar.

The draft activities for the various SEEA's (Land, Forestry, Fishery, Energy and Water) are included in the draft ToR's in Annex 1.

### **3.1 SEEA-land**

Outputs for SEEA-land:

A preliminary compilation of SEEA-land component for internal discussion and comparison among different components within the broad SEEA-Agri project.

Experimental compilation of SEEA-Land component and documentation on data and metadata to be completed for selected pilot countries to facilitate discussion for the presentation at the responsible institution African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS).

Draft publication for the SEEA Land Accounting guidelines as part of the overall SEEA implementation guideline.

Final report of compilation exercise of SEEA-land component together with all related documents.

### **3.2 SEEA-Forestry**

Outputs for SEEA- Forestry:

A preliminary compilation of SEEA- Forestry components for internal discussion and comparison with various other components within the broad SEEA-Agri project.

Experimental compilation of SEEA- Forestry components and documentation on data and metadata to be completed for selected African countries to facilitate discussion for the presentation at the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS).

Final report on SEEA- Forestry compilation exercise together with all related documents.

Data and metadata files of selected countries created and checked.

Note on gaps, problem in compiling SEEA tables, issues and suggestion of utilization and interpretation of compilation results provided.

Harmonization and integration with other inter-related sectors well discussed with written records and realized where possible and appropriate.

### **3.3 SEEA- Fishery and Aquaculture**

Outputs for SEEA-Fishery and aquaculture:

A preliminary compilation of SEEA-Fishery and aquaculture components for internal discussion and comparison with various other components within the broad SEEA-Agri project.

Experimental compilation of SEEA-Fishery and Aquaculture component and documentation on data and metadata to be completed for selected African countries to facilitate discussion for the presentation at the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS).

Final report of compilation exercise of SEEA-Fishery and Aquaculture component together with all related documents.

### **3.4 SEEA- Water**

Outputs for SEEA-Water:

Final report on the SEEA-Water compilation exercise together with all related documents.

Data and metadata files of selected countries created and checked.

Note on gaps, problems in compiling SEEA tables, issues and suggestions of utilization and interpretation of compilation results provided.

Harmonization and integration with other inter-related sectors well discussed with written records and realized where possible and appropriate.

Note on the relationship with the ongoing interagency work to prepare a compilers manual or guidelines to assist countries in the compilation of water accounts and statistics within the framework of SEEA-Water provided.

### **3.5 SEEA- Energy**

Outputs for SEEA- Energy:

A preliminary compilation of SEEA-Energy components for internal discussion and comparison among various other components within a broad SEEA-Agri project.

Experimental compilation of SEEA-Energy tables (aggregates, balances, indicators) and documentation on data and metadata to be completed for a small selection of African countries to facilitate discussion for the presentation at the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS).

Final report of compilation exercise of SEEA-Energy component together with all related documents.

Data and metadata files of selected countries created and checked.

Note on gaps, problem in compiling SEEA tables, issues and suggestion of utilization and interpretation of compilation results provided.

Harmonization and integration with other inter-related sectors well discussed with written records and realized where possible and appropriate.

### **3.6 SEEA-Agriculture set of accounts**

A preliminary SEEA-Agriculture set of accounts — and related documentation — to be completed for selected African countries to facilitate discussion by national experts attending the African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS). This will be prepared by the SEEA-AGRI Coordinator and is a deliverable under that project work-plan. The SEEA-AGRI Coordinator will prepare a report evaluating and summarizing data availability (and gaps) along with the relevance of existing FAO methodologies to prepare SEEA-Agriculture accounts.

The report will inform GS activities related to the minimum set of core data (economic, environmental, and social statistics). Recommendations on FAO dataset improvements provided, where relevant. SEEA-Agriculture Database structure and relationship to the monitoring of FAO Strategic Objectives proposed. CountrySTAT and FAOSTAT presentations proposed and agreed.

Findings presented to the GS Research Coordinator and in an FAO (ES and other Departments) Management seminar.