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## Terms of Reference of the Scientific Advisory Committee

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The *Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics* includes a research plan aiming at developing more cost-effective methods and tools for data collection, analysis and dissemination, relying on methodological and technological advances and taking into account the specificities of developing countries.

The main structures for implementing the research plan will be:

- The Global Office with the Research Coordinator having the overall responsibility for the research plan;
- The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC);
- A roster of consultants and research institutions at global, regional and national levels to serve as resource base.

### Duties

The SAC will have the key advisory role to ensure the highest quality of the results of the research activities.

Particularly, the SAC will:

- Provide technical advice to the global office on technical issues;
- Analyse the documents on the results of the research activities;
- Validate the process and results of the research activities;
- Ensure that the best technical standards are respected;
- Support the Global Office in the selection of the most appropriate institutions/experts (in conformity with FAO rules) in case a considerable part of the activities of the research topics will be outsourced.

The SAC will work mainly remotely through e-mails or teleconferences. The members of the SAC will receive the documents and will be requested to give their contribution within agreed deadlines.

### Composition

The SAC will be composed of 10 members who will be:

- Selected among outstanding internationally renowned independent experts in the methodological domains for agricultural statistics included in the annual work plan of the Global Office;
- Selected on the basis of their qualifications and capacity of experts and will not represent countries or regions;
- Approved by the Global Steering Committee.

Upon proposal of the Global Office and approval of the Global Steering Committee, the composition of the SAC may change, during the implementation of the research activities (normally approximately every two years), in order to reflect the different research topics included in the annual work plan of the Global Office.

The members of the SAC recruited as consultants for the implementation of the Global Strategy will not participate in the meetings:

- when the SAC will support the Global Office in the selection of the most appropriate institutions/experts in their field of expertise

- and/or when the SAC will validate the process and results of the research activities they have contributed to implement.

The SAC, in its first biennium (2013-2014), will include experts in the following domains:

- 1) Sample survey methodology for agricultural statistics. Area Frame, Multiple frame, Master frame for sample surveys for agricultural statistics
- 2) Estimation of crop area, yield and production in complex farming conditions in developing countries (mix cropping, repeated and continuous cropping, root crops, etc.)
- 3) Use of GPS, GIS, PDA, CAPI and remote sensing for agricultural statistics
- 4) Economic statistics and use of administrative data for producing agricultural statistics.

### **Meetings**

The SAC will meet twice a year; each meeting will last 3 working days. Travels and living expenses for the days of the meetings will be charged to the Global Strategy programme.

