



MEETING OF RESOURCE PARTNERS IN SUPPORT OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE “GLOBAL STRATEGY TO IMPROVE AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL STATISTICS”

FAO Headquarters, Rome,

28 October 2011

SUMMARY REPORT

A. OVERVIEW

The **Meeting of Resource Partners in Support of the Implementation of the “Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics”**) was organised by the World Bank, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the African Development Bank (AfDB), in collaboration with the Friends of the Chair Group (FoC) on Agricultural Statistics of the United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC).

The aim of the meeting was to present the Implementation Plan of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (Global Strategy) and the detailed Program for Africa and to discuss possible ways of mobilizing the required resources, in particular the creation of a Global Trust Fund (GTF) to support the implementation of the Strategy and its coordination at global level.

B. ORGANISATION

Time: 28 October 2011

Venue: German room (C229 – C269), FAO Headquarters, Rome, Italy

Participation: 58 participants representatives of 17 countries and several resource and technical partner institutions (see Annex 2).

Participants were welcomed by Hafez Ghanem, Assistant Director General, Economic and Social Department of FAO.

The meeting was divided in 2 main sessions: session 1 “Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics together” and session 2 “Governance Mechanism and Funding Modalities”

1) Session 1: **Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics together**

Chaired by Mr. Hafez Ghanem, Assistant Director-General, Economic and Social Department, FAO.

In this session, an overview of the Global Strategy was followed by the description of the plan for implementing the Global Strategy and the plan for Africa. The complementarities of the Global Strategy with the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS) and other initiatives was addressed. The importance of mainstreaming agricultural statistics within National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) was also stressed. The presentation of some successful experiences in line with the recommendations of the Global Strategy, carried out in various countries (Ethiopia, Morocco, Pakistan and Moldova), showed the improvements that can result from the implementation of the Global Strategy.

2) Session 2: ***Governance Mechanism and Funding Modalities***

Chaired by Mr. Hans Binswanger, Consultant, Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation (BMGF).

In this session, the Statistics Program of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community (SPC) was seen as a framework for implementing the Global Strategy in the Pacific. Subsequently, the implementation strategy of the Action Plan and the budget were described. The Governance structure and the funding modalities were also outlined. It was clarified that participation in the Global Trust Fund is not the only way to support the implementation of the Global Strategy; direct support to regional or country level activities can also be provided.

C. MAIN POINTS DICUSSED

Main points raised during the meeting were as follows:

1. Sustainability: Several interventions stressed the need to address explicitly the issue of sustainability given lessons learned from past Technical Cooperation experiences in statistics that did not result in long lasting outcomes.

It was clarified that sustainability is a key consideration of the Action Plan and will be addressed in several ways. The selection criteria of countries will ensure strong and explicit commitment by governments to continue to support the activities undertaken under the Plan. The Plan also includes an important section on users' needs assessment, which will ensure that the data produced respond to the real needs of the users and to make sure that the data is being used.

Building the institutional basis and developing the capacity of the National Statistical System (NSS), in all of its components, is also an element of achieving sustainability. This is being developed through the National Statistical Development Strategy (NSDS), which builds the institutional framework for collecting data and building linkages between the National Statistics Offices and the agricultural sector. The Plan will also promote the use of cost-effective methods in order to reduce data production cost.

2. Monitoring and Evaluation of the programme: how will the impact of the programme be measured?

Participants stressed the need to better define and put in place a strong monitoring and evaluation system with clear milestones to monitor progress in the implementation of the Plan.

3. Funding Modalities - for development agencies who are already doing work at country level will there be opportunity under the Global Strategy to fund particular countries?

First of all it was clarified that the focus of the Action Plan is on building countries capacity and does not cover actual data collection. Therefore, in addition to the Global Fund, continued direct support to country data collection activities will be essential to producing the minimum set of core data.

A more coordinated approach through the Global Trust Fund is preferred, especially as we are working to prioritize countries for implementation activities. However a flexible approach is promoted in which Partners can contribute in different ways to the implementation of the Strategy. This point will be further clarified in the revised Action Plan.

4. How will the Global Strategy be involved in the FAO's Programme of Work and Budget?

It was clarified that the Global Strategy will be included in FAO's Programme of Work and Budget.

D. CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS

The resource partners expressed support for the Global Strategy and its Implementation Plan. They recognized the importance of agricultural statistics and also the long standing neglect of this area in terms of funding. They also recognized that the implementation plan is wide ranging and ambitious but credible. The resource partners expressed the view that the establishment of the Global Fund is essential for implementing the Global Strategy but insisted that funding modalities should be flexible.

The following main conclusions and recommendations were made:

1. The Action Plan was unanimously endorsed with the amendments noted in the discussion section and summarised below;
2. It was recommended that both the workplan and the budget of the Global Action Plan and the Regional Plan for Africa be integrated into an integrated budget and workplan;
3. The M&E sections should be revised to ensure stronger systems are put in place;
4. Funding modalities at country level should be better elaborated to specify the different modalities of supporting country activities with examples;
5. The involvement of sub-regional organisations should be highlighted;
6. A strong communication and dissemination campaign should be undertaken as soon as the Action Plan is finalised.

E. STATEMENTS FROM RESOURCE PARTNERS

The resource partners were invited to make a statement on their financial participation to the implementation of the action plan. There were some clear indications from DFID and BMGF that they will contribute to the Global Fund. Some partners showed more interest in intervention at regional or country level. Others announced or confirmed in-kind contribution.

Further information related to the meeting can be found at: www.fao.org/economic/ess/resourcepartners

ANNEX 1: DETAIL AGENDA

- 08:30 – 09:00 Registration
- 09:00 – 09:10 Opening : Welcome, Introduction objectives and structure of the meeting (Hafez Ghanem, Assistant Director General, Economic and Social Department, FAO)

SESSION 1: IMPROVING AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL STATISTICS TOGETHER

Chair: Hafez Ghanem, Assistant Director General, Economic and Social Department

- 09:10 – 09:30 [Overview of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics](#) (Fred Vogel, World Bank)
- 09:30 – 09:45 Experience from 2 countries (by countries' representatives): *Ethiopia (audio-presentation), Morocco (live presentation)*
- 09:45 – 10:05 [Global Action Plan: Implementing the Global Strategy](#) (Pietro Gennari, Director, Statistics Division , FAO)
- 10:05 – 10:25 [Action Plan for Africa](#) (Oliver Chinganya, Statistical Department, AfDB)
- 10:25 – 10:50 **Coffee-break**
- 10:50 – 11:05 [Complementarities of the Global Strategy with AMIS and other global initiatives](#) (Pietro Gennari, Director, Statistics Division, FAO)
- 11:05 – 11:35 Discussion
- 11:35 – 11:50 Experience from 2 countries (by countries' representatives): *Pakistan (audio), Moldova (live)*
- 11:50 – 12:00 [Mainstreaming agricultural statistics within NSDS](#) (Christophe Duhamel, Deputy Manager, PARIS21)
- 12:00 – 12:10 [Statistical Programme of SPC as a framework for implementing the Global Strategy in the Pacific](#) (Gerald Haberkorn, Manager)
- 12:10 - 12:30 Discussion (*start with statement by Brazil as Chair of FoC*)
- 12:30 – 14:00 **Lunch break**

SESSION 2: GOVERNANCE MECHANISM AND FUNDING MODALITIES

Chair: FAO Hans Binswanger, BMGF

- 14:00 – 14:15 [Implementation Strategy and overview of the budget, Global Plan](#) (Naman Keita, Statistics Division, FAO)
- 14:15 – 14:40 [Funding modalities](#) (Minà Dowlatchahi, Technical Cooperation Department, FAO)
- 14:40 – 15:30 Discussion
- 15:30 – 16:00 **Coffee-break**
- 16:00 – 16:40 Statements by resource partners (BMGF, DfID, ADB, etc.)
- 16:40 – 17:00 Discussion
- 17:00 – 17:30 Concluding remarks

ANNEX 2: LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

No.	Country/Organisation	CONTACT	CONTACT DESCRIPTION	EMAIL
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