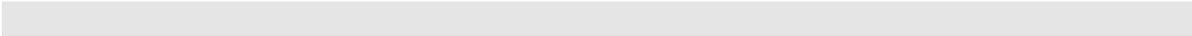




**REPORT OF THE
ISI SATELLITE MEETING ON AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS**

**Maputo, Mozambique
13-14 October 2009**



SUMMARY OF THE MAIN RECOMMENDATIONS

A consensus was reached among participants that the purpose of the Global Strategy to improve Agricultural Statistics was to provide the vision for national and international statistical systems to support decision making in the 21st century. The participants endorsed the vision and principles proposed.

Regarding the detailed proposals included in the Global Strategy, the participants found that further refinements and developments were needed on the conceptual framework, the methodology to assess national capacity in agriculture statistics, the minimum set of core data, the integrated survey framework and master sampling frame. The meeting requested the Friends of the Chair group of the United Nations Statistical Commission to further work in these areas and to revise the Global Strategy with inputs from the Maputo Meeting. The following key recommendations were made during the meeting:

Policy Issues and Global Strategy

1. The meeting recognised the important role that quality agricultural statistics play in supporting policy analysis and decision making requirements in the 21st century. There was widespread agreement on the need for a global strategy to improve the quality and quantity of agricultural statistics and general support for the approach proposed to meet user requirements, including emerging data needs. It also recognised the importance that official statisticians work closely with data users and involve them in the development of new indicators.

Conceptual Framework

2. The meeting strongly endorsed the importance of integrating agricultural statistics with the other components of national statistical systems in countries. The conceptual framework needs to describe the statistical units, the indicators and data items, their possible relations, and the overall paradigm. The meeting recognised that different levels of implementation may be needed according to the structure of the economy, the level of development of the statistical system, and the conceptual framework needs to take these into consideration. Some flexibility in the approach and methodology was needed, with probably a layered approach in view of the feasibility of introducing the strategy in various contexts. Further work on the conceptual framework was requested on this aspect in the Global Strategy.

Assessment of Countries' Agricultural Statistical Systems

3. The meeting agreed with the need for countries to assess carefully their agricultural statistics and called on FAO and other international agencies to develop specific tools and guidance to help with this process. The current unsatisfactory situation of agricultural statistics (including forestry, fishery and aquaculture), particularly in developing countries, calls for strengthened statistical capacity building initiatives and coordination mechanisms in agricultural statistics. Further developments were requested on this aspect in the Global Strategy.

Menu of Indicators and Core Data Set

4. The meeting was in general agreement with the core data needs identified in the draft strategy and the criteria used to select the core data items, but recommended that more work is needed to be done on the specification of indicators that are relevant to countries at different levels of development. It was proposed that the discussion about the core data set should focus on Table B in chapter 6 and that the final report will need to add clarity to the definitions of indicators versus data items.

Master Sampling Frame

5. The meeting agreed and accepted the proposals in the draft strategy on a national master sampling frame for agricultural statistics. It was recommended that the document should consider how this might be applied in different country conditions.

Integrated Survey Framework

6. The meeting suggested changing the chapter title into “Integrated data collection and survey framework”, to broaden the view of integration to all data sources available in the National Statistical System, including administrative data. The strategy should also describe integration of the entire survey process discussing consistency of questionnaires and of data collection operations. More emphasis should be given to area frame surveys and crop yield estimation.

Governance Issues

7. The meeting recognized the need to align the national statistical legislation with other laws that cover data collection activities in sectors: the need to mainstream the agricultural sector in the design and implementation of the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics; the need for establishing clear functions and effectiveness of the coordination structures including the issue of representation and effective participation of members of these structures; and the need for mainstreaming statistics into national development plans with adequate budgets.

Capacity Building

8. The meeting emphasized the importance of halting and reversing the decline in capacity in developing countries and recommended capacity building for agricultural statistics to be coordinated with and integrated in national strategies for the development of statistics. There is a need to find common and long sustainable way to carry out capacity building in order to have better data and better policies.

Materials and Good Practices

9. The meeting requested FAO and other international organizations to prepare manuals and best practices in conducting agricultural census and surveys and to disseminate them in a common place for reference of official agricultural statisticians worldwide.

I. INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background and Objectives of the Satellite Meeting

The purpose of the satellite meeting was to review the draft Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural Statistics and to seek inputs from international organizations and national agencies that are involved in the production and analysis of agricultural statistics. The need for this strategy document was agreed upon at the 40th Session of the United Nations Statistical Commission in February 2009, which established a Friends of the Chair Group (FoC) to steer its development.

The main lines of action covered by the Global Strategy include:

- a. To identify a minimum set of indicators that reflect current core agricultural statistical needs and emerging requirements, including those from neighbouring domains;
- b. to provide a blueprint for a better integration of agricultural statistics in the national statistical system;
- c. to advocate for national statistical organizations and ministries of agriculture to obtain funding to meet the agreed international requirements;
- d. to establish a basis for statistical capacity building by identifying a set of methodological tools, and
- e. to establish coordination of donors' efforts to improve agricultural and rural statistics.

The ISI Satellite Meeting on Agricultural Statistics took place on 13 and 14 August at the Joaquim Chissano International Conference Centre in Maputo, Mozambique; back-to-back with the 57th Session of the International Statistical Institute (ISI) in Durban, from 16 to 22 August 2009.

The meeting was hosted by the National Statistical Office of Mozambique (INE- Mozambique), and organized in cooperation with the African Development Bank (AfDB), the Statistical Office of the European Communities (Eurostat), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21), the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD), the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA), and the World Bank.

1.2 Meeting Organization and level of participation

The meeting was chaired by Mr. Eduardo Pereira Nunes, the Chair of the Friends of the Chair (FOC) Group and by the President of the National Institute of Statistics, Mozambique, Mr. João Dias Loureiro.

The Satellite Meeting was organised in the following sessions (see detailed agenda and programme in Annex 1):

- a. Opening ceremony;
- b. introductory session on policy issues in the development of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural Statistics;
- c. six technical sessions, each discussing a specific chapter of the strategy document;
- d. panel discussion session on the future directions of statistical capacity building;
- e. wrap-up and concluding session.

During the Opening Ceremony, the opening Statement was made by Her Excellency Mrs Luisa Dias Diogo, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mozambique. Opening remarks were made by Mr

Fred Vogel on behalf of ISI President and by Mr Eduardo Nunes, Chair of the Friends of the Chair Group. His Excellency Mr. Soares Nhaca, Minister of Agriculture, Ms. María José de Oliveira Zimmermann, FAO Representative in Mozambique and Swaziland, and several high ranking government officials attended the Opening Ceremony.

The Sessions were introduced by invited discussants before opening the floor to all the participants. Mr. Pietro Gennari, Director of FAO Statistics Division, highlighted the key outcomes of the two-day satellite meetings and Mr. João Dias Loureiro, President of INE, on behalf of the Government of Mozambique, closed the meeting.

The ISI Satellite Meeting on Agricultural Statistics gathered senior experts from International Organizations, National Statistical Offices, and Ministries of Agriculture to discuss the key elements of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural Statistics. More than 200 participants from over 45 countries as well as from international and regional organizations attended the meeting (see list of participants in Annex 2).

Following the closure of the Satellite Meeting, the first meeting of the FoC took place to discuss ways of proceeding with the revision and further development of the Global Strategy. A separate report is prepared on that meeting.

An informal meeting was also organised by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation for selected African Stakeholders and Partners to initiate discussions on a possible capacity building programme in agricultural statistics for Africa. A separate report on that meeting is prepared by Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation.

The Government of Mozambique was commended for the excellent logistical organisation, hospitality, and support provided to participants.

Following are summary of presentations, main issues discussed, and main conclusions and recommendations of the Satellite Meeting.

II. SUMMARY OF PRESENTATIONS AND MAIN ISSUES DISCUSSED

Session 1: Policy Issues in the development of Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural Statistics

Chair: Mr. Charles Lufumpa (African Development Bank)

Summary of presentations

His Excellency Mr. Soares Nhaca (Minister of Agriculture, Mozambique) stressed the importance of a more timely, integrated and accessible statistical information system to assist in the formulation of evidence-based policy decisions in support of agricultural development, economic growth and poverty reduction. He stressed that Agricultural statistics should be part of the national strategic plans for statistical development to allow coordination and harmonisation. He identified the following key challenges: how to produce timely statistics based on international standards and scientific methodologies; how to improve coordination among the statistical producers; how to produce statistics that could be used at lower geographical levels when decentralization is taken as a pole of development; how to produce statistics on natural resources; how to production and

use of statistics with gender perspective; and how to allocate adequate resources for producing agricultural statistics by the governments and partners in due time.

Ms. Mary Bohman (ERS, USA) highlighted the key issues facing the food, agriculture and rural sectors and their implications for agricultural statistics. Ms. Bohman also stressed that agricultural statistics had an important role to play in support of policy decisions, helping to understand how resources, production, returns, and household income were distributed among the population; and how farm and rural households made choices and responded to change. Ms Bohman noted that for statisticians, it would be extremely important to work with data users and involve them in the development of new statistics. She expressed her hope that the Global Strategy recognized the importance of developing institutional linkages with data users. This would ensure that statistics were used, hence valued, and kept relevant.

Mr. Fred Vogel (World Bank) emphasized that the strategy is still under development and that the main purpose of the meeting was to start a global consultation to obtain input from both developing and developed countries. The purpose of the Strategy was to provide the vision for a statistical system to support decision making requirements in the 21st century, in particular, decisions involving agricultural policies, markets, and investment. The document provided the framework and the basic principles that informed the Global Strategy and that represented the prerequisite for developing a renewed capacity building initiative in agricultural statistics. In addition, the need for good coordination and governance to meet strategic goals and data quality was stressed.

Session 2: Conceptual Framework and Data Requirement

Chair: Ms. Mary Bohman (ERS, USDA)

Summary of presentations

Ms. Mary Bohman (ERS, USDA) introduced the speakers highlighting that the conceptual framework will define the scope of the Global Strategy, the links of agriculture with other sectors, and the components to be developed.

Mr. Pieter Everaers (EUROSTAT) noted that in order to be operational, the conceptual framework should describe the statistical units, the indicators and data items, their possible relations, and the overall paradigm. Candidates' statistical units could be the agricultural holding, the land plot, and the household. Spatial coordinates could link the three different Statistical units. Mr Everaers expressed concern that we might miss some important information when conducting surveys at the household level. The [LUCAS \(land use/cover area frame statistical survey\) project 2006](#) was introduced by EUROSTAT as a practical approach to collect information on land use. In addition, it might not be possible to have only one global model: the strategy should propose different conceptual models and different levels of implementation according to the structure of the economy and the level of development of the statistical system. The current draft Global Strategy might be too oriented-developed countries In developing countries the focus should remain on MDG related indicators and targets. A layered conceptual model seemed also to be required in view of the feasibility of introducing the strategy in various contexts.

Mr. Xiaoning Gong (FAO) stated that the conceptual framework could be built on the basis of the Systems of Economic Accounts (SNA) and of the Integrated Economic-Environmental Accounts (SEEA). This framework could be used as the foundation of several pillars of the Global Strategy: to translate policy issues into statistical language; to integrate agricultural statistics into the

national statistical system; to apply harmonized concepts, definitions, and classifications across different domains ensuring consistency among all indicators; to organize data items in a comprehensive and coordinated way, avoiding data overlaps and data gaps.

Mr. George Kvinikadze (MED, Georgia) noted that the last agricultural census in 2004 provided a useful testing ground for the conceptual framework of the Global Strategy. Conceptual issues that were tackled in designing the census were the choice of the statistical units, the linkages between agricultural households and agricultural holdings, the application of SNA, and the scope of the agricultural sector.

Discussions and conclusions

- a. Importance of the integration of agricultural statistics into the National Statistical System to produce a comprehensive and interrelated set of statistics from different domains (e.g. environment, rural well-being, poverty)
- b. The conceptual framework needs to describe the statistical units, the indicators and data items, their possible relations, and the overall paradigm. The starting point however should be the policy issues that need to be addressed in the framework. On the other hand, operational and practical aspects of the conceptual framework needs to be considered, like efficient use of new technologies such as remote sensing and utilization of all possible data sources including administrative records. The Systems of National accounts and economic-environmental accounting are possible frameworks that could be used to develop and integrate agricultural statistics into a national system.
- c. Need for multiple conceptual models and for a layered approach allowing flexibility in the implementation of the strategy according to the structure of the economy and the level of development of the statistical system.
- d. Importance of the development of a common language and standardized descriptive information about data items, indicators metadata.

Session 3: Assessment of countries' agricultural statistical system **Chair: Mr. Christophe Duhamel (PARIS21)**

Summary of presentations

Mr. Hiek Som (FAO) gave a brief summary of Chapter 4 of the Global Strategy which contained an overview of the capacity of the agricultural statistical system in developing countries. Major findings were that the quantity and quality of data from national official sources have been steadily declining since the early 1980's. This could be largely explained by weak institutional capacity in many countries and lower priority accorded by donors and governments to agricultural statistics. Coordination of statistical activities was also often weak at the national level.

Mr. François Fonteneau (PARIS21) presented an assessment of the coverage of agriculture statistics in the National Strategies for the Development of Statistics (NSDS) for International Development Association countries. According to Mr Fonteneau, 43 countries had a NSDS, but only four to ten countries had included agriculture more or less appropriately in their NSDS. It was underlined that the NSDS's should be strengthened, particularly in the context of the Global Strategy.

Mr. Graham Eele (World Bank) presented the rationale and methodologies to assess the capacity of national statistical systems. Standards and guidelines were presented such as the IMF General Data Dissemination System Site (GDDS) and Data Quality Assessment Framework, the SWOT methodology and the World Bank statistical capacity indicators.

Mr. Idir Bais (MoA, Algeria) presented the experience of Algeria in adopting a new results-based management approach to conduct an assessment of the statistical system and to prepare a national strategy for agricultural statistics. He underlined the importance of a sound information system and adequate capacity building for ensuring that the agriculture sector played a more important role in national economic growth and food security. Statistical capacity building initiatives envisaged in Algeria were in line with the Global Strategy.

Ms. Ping Ping Wang (NBS, China) informed the meeting that the assessment of the statistical system in China was instrumental in meeting users' needs and improving statistical management. The content of the assessment included data availability, satisfaction of needs, and quality improvement. She suggested that FAO/World Bank should set up a platform for sharing good practices in survey and census programs of various countries, translate them in common languages and make them accessible world-wide.

Discussion and conclusions

- Better assessments of the national agricultural statistics system are necessary as a prerequisite for the implementation of appropriate statistical capacity building strategies. The adoption of international and harmonized standard assessment frameworks will be discussed at the next session of the UN Statistical Commission in February 2010 and FAO should actively participate in the discussion to represent the point of view of national agricultural statisticians, as many of them will not be able to attend the session.
- There is an urgent need to scale up investments for the improvement of the agricultural statistical system and to establish national coordination mechanisms in the agricultural sector.
- Training plays a very important role in improving the capacity of national agricultural statisticians. It is important that training is not only limited to technical aspects but also covers the management of the agricultural statistical system.
- A data-bank of agricultural census and survey questionnaires should be created and made accessible to national agricultural statisticians.
- NSDS should be used for promoting the implementation of the Global Strategy.

Session 4: Menu of Indicators and Core Data Set

Chair: Mr. Pieter Evereaes (EUROSTAT)

Summary of presentations

Mr. Naman Keita (FAO) described the FAO/WB Indicators Source Book which proposed a menu of 86 indicators, 19 of which were selected as priority indicators. He highlighted the core data requirements and emphasized the survey tools to be used in countries to be able to generate these 19 priority indicators.

Mr Moses Mnyaka (NSO, South Africa), noted that several countries have already started implementing the strategy, at least in some of its aspects, and others were ready to adopt it. According to Mr Mnyaka there was a need to take advantage of the momentum, keeping the pace in the development of the strategy and the implementation plan.

Mr Quan Vinh (GSO, Vietnam) commented that the criteria used to select the core items in the Global Strategy document were generally appropriate and agreed upon the set of core data items proposed. He highlighted however that it would take time and global efforts to collect and produce all the data required. Even for countries with a rich number of indicators, there still seemed to be many data gaps in the indicators proposed by the Global Strategy.

Ms. Blagica Novkovska (SC, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia) gave an overview of the availability of basic information for estimating the proposed indicators. In many fields, a lack of basic data would create problems in generating about half of the indicators. In addition, she stressed that even if data was available its quality was also a concern. Thus, indicators needed to be prioritised. She also pointed out that the indicators needed to be more precisely described. National capacity and availability of agricultural and rural statistics would definitely be enhanced by taking the approaches proposed in the Global Strategy.

Ms. Ute Walsemann (Destatis, Germany) questioned the selection of the indicators. The need for a better understanding of the indicators' definition and underlying variables was highlighted. In addition, the need to test their feasibility in different context was also stressed. The data requirements and statistical information used for calculating and compiling the indicators, and thus the applied methodologies, should be better described as well as the links with development goals, such as the MDGs.

Discussion and conclusions

- The definition of some proposed indicators has questioned the issue of confidentiality related to the publication of census microdata and the partnership between countries in developing agricultural statistics were also highlighted.
- The criteria used for the selection of the core indicators were questioned highlighting the lack of indicators for food security assessment as well as for policy monitoring and evaluation. These questions are closely connected to the discussion on the conceptual framework.
- A discussion on the emphasis that should be placed on indicators versus variables concluded that selecting core variables – as described also in the Global Strategy document – is considered as important as the selection of the core indicators. Relevance for economic and policy analysis was mentioned as being an important criterion for the selection of the core indicators.
- The selection of the indicators and the variables is a crucial step in building the Global Strategy. It is clear from the discussion that ensuring the buy-in and commitment of the countries, not just the NSI's but also the other stakeholders, is of great importance. In turn, this will depend largely on to what extent countries can recognise themselves in the proposed set of indicators and variables. A wide consultation of countries' opinion on the feasibility and relevance of the proposed indicators will be essential. An important decision to be taken in finalizing the global strategy concerns the level of technical details included in the final document that will be submitted to the UNSC. A possible controversy on technical details could severely delay the progress of the process.

- In order to avoid confusion about indicators and the recommended set of core data items (some participants thinking that the set of core meant the priority monitoring and evaluation indicators described in table 1 in the appendix.) it was proposed that the discussion about the core data set should focus on Table B in chapter 6. The final report will need to add clarity to the definitions of indicators vs data items.

Session 5: Integrating Agricultural Statistics into the National Statistical System: the Master Sampling Frame

Chair: Mr. Naman Keita (FAO)

Summary of presentations

Mr. Hiek Som (FAO) made an introductory presentation on FAO recommendations to use Population Census as a basis to build a frame for agricultural censuses and surveys as indicated in the World Programme for Agricultural Census 2010 (WCA 2010). The core module for the agricultural census with 16 data items could be partly covered during the population census and used to identify agricultural households.

Mr. Valeriano Levene (INE, Mozambique) presented the national experience in building a sampling frame for the agricultural census 2009 on the basis of the population census 2007. Given the features of the agriculture and farming system in Mozambique (three million small holders owing 98% of the agricultural land of the country), the population census was considered as the most suitable basis to get an appropriate sampling frame for an agricultural census. In particular, the Population census 2007 included questions covering 10 out of the 16 data items listed in the core module of WCA2010. New data collection techniques were being used during this agricultural census, including Computer Assisted Personal Interviews (CAPI) and Global Positioning System (GPS) for crop area measurement. A key challenge would be the establishment of a strong institutional framework. In this regard, a statistical master plan for agriculture would be prepared and integrated into the NSDS. Another challenge would be the integration of all agricultural statistics in one single data-base.

Mr. Redounane Arrach (MoA, Morocco) informed the meeting that Morocco had a long experience in the use of area frame with good results. The derived statistical results were found to have tracked the impact of agricultural policies very well, demonstrating the relevance and credibility of the methodology (except for livestock data, which were questioned even if validated by an independent survey). This methodology, however, was facing some major challenges, including: frame getting old, rapid changes in land cover (urbanization and other use of land), respondents' fatigue on ageing, field staff, etc. To address these challenges, an integrated agricultural information system was being developed using satellite images (15 million hectares underway and seven millions hectares operational).

Mr Flavio Bolliger (IBGE, Brazil) presented the rich experience of Brazil in building a master sampling frame with a dual frame approach. In developing this approach IBGE took into account past experiences, available technological tools (satellite images, GPS, etc), the need for integration and the complex agricultural and farming system in Brazil.

Mr Peter Harper (ABS, Australia) presented the interesting experience of Australia in the use of farm business registry to build a sampling frame for agricultural surveys.

Discussion and conclusions

- In the Global Strategy, integration should be discussed at different levels: institutional; operational; analytical and also at international level; improving the coordination between various international agencies (FAO/UNFPA).
- The approach of using a Master Sampling Frame for integration as recommended in the Global Strategy was accepted. However, it was recognized that the implementation should be adapted to the level of development of the country and the farming system and structure which may vary considerably from a high number of small holders and few commercial/large farm mainly in developing countries to a few number of large farms which produce a large part of the production mainly in developed countries.
- Countries would benefit from manuals and reference documents for implementing some of the aspects of the Global Strategy, including for the creation of a Master Sampling Frame. The need for a manual to be prepared by FAO on practical examples and good practices on integration of an agriculture module into the questionnaire of the population census was also highlighted.
- Depending on the country situation, area frame, list frame and multiple frames, including farm registers, can be used for building the master sampling frame.
- The measurement of livestock and migrant populations can create problems in the use of an area frame approach.

Session 6: Integrated Survey Framework **Chair: Mr. Michael Steiner (NASS, USDA)**

Summary of presentations

Mr Pietro Gennari (FAO), after discussing different types of survey integration, provided an example of thematic integration proposing the use of Household Expenditure Surveys for Food Security Assessment. If data on food acquisition were collected not only in monetary values but also in physical quantity Household Income Expenditure Surveys/Living Standard Measurement Surveys (HIES/LSMS) could become major sources of information for deriving food security statistics that could support the adoption of informed policies on food security and food vulnerability. This information would also allow joint assessments of poverty and food security shedding light on the relationship between two of the key indicators used for monitoring MDG Goal 1.

Kathleen Beegle (World Bank) presented the Living Standards Measurement Study-Integrated Surveys on Agriculture (LSMS-ISA) initiative which aimed at improving the availability, quality and relevance of agricultural data for policy and research in Sub-Saharan Africa. She informed the meeting that the project would be conducted in six Sub-Saharan countries interviewing a panel of households every three years, providing the opportunity to follow the socio-economic trajectory of households over time as well as to rigorously evaluate the impact of policy interventions. One of the key features of the project was the introduction of an enhanced agriculture and livestock survey module in the LSMS. Other components were the methodological improvements in data

collection techniques and measurements, capacity building and the adoption of an open dissemination policy.

Mr Miriam Barbuda (IBGE, Brazil) illustrated the Brazilian experience in using remote sensing and geo-referencing in the last agricultural census. One of the major innovations in the 10th agricultural census was that a complete population count and an address list update were integrated in the census operations. In particular, a regular updated (area frame) register was established by using aerial imagery and geo-referencing. This new statistical infrastructure would open the possibility of collecting agricultural statistics by using multiple surveys based on list as well as area frames.

Ms Aberash Tariku (CSA, Ethiopia) presented the integrated household survey programme adopted in Ethiopia based on a list frame derived from the population census. The current agriculture crop surveys was part of this programme and collects data on crop forecasting and seasonal crop production, area cultivated, farm management practices, land utilization and livestock. Ms Tariku also presented the recent Ethiopian experience in conducting a pilot agricultural survey based on an area frame approach.

Discussion and conclusions

- It was proposed that the Global Strategy should cover the “Integrated data collection and survey framework”, broadening the view of integration to all data sources available in the National Statistical System including administrative data. A discussion on the use of this source for producing agricultural statistics is warranted.
- This section of the strategy should also describe integration of the entire survey process discussing consistency of questionnaires and of data collection operations such as timing of surveys.
- At the same time, the Global Strategy should be flexible and recognise that some domains require unique sampling and survey methodology (for example, sample surveys of landing sites to capture data from fishers) and that some countries may benefit by adopting a multiple frame approach depending on their economic and geographical structure.
- Area frame surveys present potential and limitations that should be addressed in the Global Strategy. In measuring cultivated area, GPS technologies provide a promising potential in terms of cost effectiveness in subsistence farming context in developing countries. In addition, the collection of livestock and socio-economic and demographic data based on an area frame approach remains a concern.

Session 7: Governance Issues in the National Implementation of the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural Statistics

Chair: Mr. Ben Kiregyera (ECA)

Summary of presentations

Mr. Ben Kiregyera (ECA) stated that in our quest for statistical development, technical and financial issues in many countries had tended to crowd out governance issues. Yet governance issues were as important, and in many developing countries perhaps more important. Good governance would improve technical competencies, accountability, effectiveness and efficiency.

Governance was a major constraint to statistical development in many developing countries. He found that there was little in the Global Strategy on this subject yet. Participants were asked to make contributions on this topic. The NSDS which many low-income countries were designing or implementing, would provide a framework for addressing many data limitations and governance issues.

Mr. Christophe Duhamel (PARIS21) informed that FAO and PARIS21 were working on guidelines to ensure that: agricultural statistics was properly integrated into the national statistical system and development policy; greater awareness about sectoral statistics was created; and users got a better understanding of agricultural statistics. The structure of the guide was outlined and timelines for its preparation given, including its review by experts with final production in 2010.

Mr. Romeo Recide (BAS, Philippines), Mr. Konstantin Laikam (ROSSTAT, Russia), and Mr. John Male Mukasa (UBS, Uganda) focused their presentations on the description of national coordination arrangements of agricultural statistics in decentralized statistical systems. The formation of a National Statistical Coordination Board and its creation by Presidential decree in the Philippines, the establishment of ad-hoc Agricultural Statistics Coordination and Technical Committees in Uganda, and centralized coordination structures in Russia, including a Federal Plan, Federal Targeted Plan and a statistical system project, were presented. The need for establishing clear functions of the coordination structures was spelt out and some challenges concerning the effectiveness of the coordination structures identified, including the issue of the right level of representation in these structures. According to the presenters, representation at a high level tended to lead to inadequate attendance to meetings while representation at a low level led to inability to commit own organizations to some decisions.

Mr. Eloi Ouedraogo (Afristat) noted that the Global Strategy was in line with the work of Afristat for the promotion of statistical development among its member states. Afristat emphasized the need for a new vision for statistics with national coordinating institution to implement the vision and the global plan. The need for mainstreaming statistics into national development plans and budgets was stressed. Proposals on governance, including establishing Statistical Councils at national level, mainstreaming statistics into national development plans and budgets, etc. were made.

Discussion and conclusions

- The need to align the national statistical legislation with other laws that cover data collection activities in sectors.
- The need to mainstream agricultural sector in the design and implementation of the NSDS.

Session 8: Panel Discussion on Future Directions of Statistical Capacity Building

Chair: Mr. Misha Belkindas (World Bank)-

Summary of presentations

The final session of the conference was organized as a panel discussion focusing on future directions for capacity building in agricultural statistics and the implications for the Global Strategy on agricultural statistics. There were a series of initial statements from each of eight

panellists: Ms. Cynthia Clark (NASS, USDA), Mr. Pietro Gennari (FAO), Ms. Xinia Andrade (INEC, Costa Rica), Mr. Lawson Fessou (AfDB), Mr. Lubili Marco Gambamala (NBS, Tanzania), Mr. Ben Kyregyera (ECA), Mr. Pieter Everaers (EUROSTAT), and Mr. Chris Gingerich (BMGF). This was followed by a general discussion.

Discussion and conclusions

- The need to address and support ongoing research and for a greater integration between statistics and agricultural research;
- The need for the Global Strategy to address a long-term decline in the capacity and effectiveness of agricultural statistics agencies in many developing countries;
- The importance of comprehensive approach based on a broad partnership;
- The need to learn from past initiatives and to build on successes such as the International Comparison Program; and
- The need for development agencies to work together and to support country-led capacity building programs.

Wrap-up and concluding Session

Chair: Mr. Pietro Gennari (FAO)-

At the end the meeting, Mr Pietro Gennari (FAO) highlighted some of the main conclusions and the way forward for the finalisation of the Global Strategy.

He noted that a consensus was reached among all participants that the purpose of the Global Strategy was to provide the vision for national and international statistical systems to support decision making in the 21st century. The participants endorsed the vision and agreed on the following principles:

- to establish a minimum set of core data that meet the emerging demands, to be provided annually;
- to integrate agricultural statistics into the national statistical systems in order to meet policy maker and other data user expectations for data to be comparable across countries and over time;
- to adopt a suite of methodologies that includes the development of a Master Sampling Frame for Agriculture, the implementation of an Integrated Survey Framework, and with the results available in an Integrated Data-base.

The participants agreed that this vision should be based on an appropriate conceptual framework and supported by a global capacity building programme based on in-depth assessment of countries capacity and implemented with an effective governance structure at the national and international levels.

From the presentations and discussions during the meeting on the detailed proposals contained in the Global Strategy, it appears that further refinements and developments are needed on some aspects, in particular: the conceptual framework; the quality framework for the assessment of national capacity in agriculture statistics; the minimum set of core data; and the integrated survey framework and master sampling frame.

Further developments and improvements to the document will be made by the FoC in the areas listed above taking into account also the inputs from Maputo Meeting with the aim of presenting the final version at the 41st session of the UN Statistical Commission in February 2010. The FoC will prepare a detailed work plan to meet the requirements for the presentation of the document at UNSC meeting.

In the meanwhile, the document will be presented at the following meetings for further consultation and endorsement:

- a. PARIS21 Consortium meeting in Dakar, Senegal (16-18 November 2009);
- b. FAO African Commission on Agricultural Statistics (AFCAS) meeting in Accra, Ghana (28-31 October 2009);
- c. FAO Conference in Rome, Italy (19-22 November 2009).

Mr Gennari concluded the wrap-up session by extending his thanks to the Government of Mozambique, the sponsoring Agencies and all participants for the success of the meeting.

ANNEX 1.

AGENDA AND PROGRAMME OF THE SATELLITE MEETING

Time	13 August 2009	Session chairs
0900-0930	Opening Ceremony <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address by Her Excellency Mrs Luisa Dias Diogo, Prime Minister of the Republic of Mozambique • Welcoming address by Fred Vogel, Chair of the Committee on Agricultural Statistics of ISI • Introductory remarks by Eduardo Nunes, Chair of the Friends of the Chair Group on Agricultural Statistics(FoC) 	Ms Alda Rocha (INE, Mozambique) [Master of Ceremony]

Meeting Chair: Eduardo Nunes, Chair of UNSC Friends of the Chair

Meeting co-Chair: Joao Loureiro, President of the National Institute of Statistics, Mozambique (INE)

1	0930-1045	Policy Issues in the Global Economy and Strategic Plan for Agricultural Statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Key notes by His Excellency Mr. Soares Nhaca, Minister of Agriculture of Mozambique (20 mn). • Introductory remarks by Mary Bohman, ERS (20 mn) • Overview of the “Strategic Plan” by Fred Vogel (30 mn) 	Charles Lufumpa (African Development Bank)- 5 mn
	1045-1115	Break	
2	1115-1230	Data Requirements and Conceptual Framework for Agricultural Statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussant 1: Pieter Everaers, EUROSTAT (10-15 mn) • Discussant 2: Xiaoning Gong, FAO (10-15 mn) • Discussant 3: George Kvinikadze, Georgia (10-15 mn) Discussion	Mary Bohman (ERS) – 5 mn
	1230-1400	Lunch	
3	1400-1530	Assessment of Countries’ Agricultural Statistical Systems <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief summary of <i>Country Assessment</i>: Hiek Som, FAO (5 mn) • Brief Summary of <i>Integration of Agriculture in NSDS</i>: François Fonteneau, PARIS21(5 mn) • Discussant 1: Graham Eele, World Bank (10-15 mn) • Discussant 2: Idir Bais, Algeria (10-15 mn) • Discussant 3: Ms. Ping Ping Wang, China (10-15 mn) Discussion	Christophe Duhamel, (PARIS21) - 5 mn
	1530-1600	Break	
4	1600-1730	Determining the Menu of Indicators and a Core Set <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief summary of <i>Selecting Core Indicators for Agriculture and Rural Statistics (FAO/World Bank)</i>: Naman Keita, FAO (5 mn) • Discussant 1: Moses Mnyaka, South Africa (10-15 mn) • Discussant 2: Blagica Novkovska, SC Macedonia (10-15 mn) • Discussant 3: Ute Walselmann, Germany (10-15 mn) 	Pieter Everaers (EUROSTAT)- 5 mn

- Discussant 4: Vinh Q. Pham, Vietnam (10-15 mn)
Discussion

	Time	14 August 2009	Session Chairs
		Chair: President, INE, Mozambique	
5	0900-1030	Integration of Agricultural Statistics into National Statistics System <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief summary of <i>Use of Population Census to Build Agricultural Census/survey Frame</i>: Hiek Som, FAO (5 mn) • Discussant 1: Valeriano Levene, Mozambique: (10-15 mn) • Discussant 2: Redouane Arrach, Morocco (10-15 mn) • Discussant 3: Flavio Bolliger, Brazil (10-15 mn) • Discussant 4: Peter Harper, Australia (10-15 mn) Discussion	Naman Keita (FAO)- 5 mn
	1030-1100	Break	
6	1100-1230	Survey Framework <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief summary of <i>Enhancing Food Security Relevance of Household Surveys with a Food Security Module</i>: Pietro Gennari, FAO (5 mn) • Discussant 1: Kathleen Beegle, World Bank (10-15 mn) • Discussant 2; Miriam Barbuda, Brazil (10-15 mn) • Discussant 3: Aberash Tariku, Ethiopia (10-15 mn) Discussion	Michael Steiner – (NASS)- 5mn
	1230-1400	Lunch	
7	1400-1515	Governance Issues in the National Implementation of the Strategic Plan for Agricultural Statistics <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brief Summary of <i>Guidelines on Integration of Agricultural and Rural Sector Strategies into NSDS (PARIS21/FAO)</i>: Christophe Duhamel, PARIS21 (5 mn) • Discussant 1: Romeo Recide, Philippines (10-15 mn) • Discussant 2: John Male Mukasa, Uganda (10-15 mn) • Discussant 3: Konstantin Laikam, Russia (10-15 mn) • Discussant 4: Eloi Ouedraogo, AFRISTAT (10-15 mn) Discussion	Ben Kiregyera (ECA)- 5 mn
	1515-1545	Break	
8	1545-1700	Panel Discussion on Future Direction: Statistical Capacity Building <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction by Misha Belkindas, World Bank • USA: Cynthia Clark • FAO: Pietro Gennari • Costa Rica: Xinia Andrade • AfDB: Lawson Fessou • Tanzania: Lubili Marco Gambamala • UNECA: Ben Kyregyera • EUROSTAT: Pieter Everaers • Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation: Chris Gingerich Discussion	Misha Belkindas (World Bank)- 5 mn
9	1700-1730	Summary and Conclusions: Next Steps FAO: wrap up.	Pietro Gennari (FAO)

Satellite Meeting on Agricultural Statistics

Maputo, 13 - 14 August 2009

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