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# Improving Statistics for Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture, and Rural Development

**Action Plan for Africa (2011-2015)**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Launching and Training Workshop on Action Plan and  
Country Assessment**

***27 - 29 August 2012, Addis-Ababa, Ethiopia***

# ***REPORT***

**August 2012**

## **1. Objectives and organization of the workshop**

The 2<sup>nd</sup> launching and training workshop on the *Africa Action Plan (2011-2012) for Improving Statistics for Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture and Rural Development*, and Country Assessment held in Addis-Ababa from 27<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> August 2012 was organized by the African Development Bank (AfDB), in cooperation with the Central Statistical Agency (CSA) of Ethiopia, Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) of the United Nation, and Food Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO).

The main objective of the workshop was to appraise the participants on the Action Plan for Africa (2011-2015) of the Global Strategy on Improving Agriculture and Rural Statistics, and to train them on the effective use of the Country Assessment instruments/tools for compiling information related to agriculture statistical capacities and needs (See the agenda of the meeting in Annex 1).

The workshop was attended by 54 participants including agricultural statistics experts from Ministries of Agriculture and National Statistical Offices (NSO) from 21 regional member countries, and representatives and development partners from AfDB, the Economic Commission for Africa of the United Nations (UNECA), African Union Commission (AUC), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and Eastern and Southern Africa Regional Office of IFPRI (See the list of participants in Annex 2).

The workshop commenced with observance of a moment of silence in memory of the late Prime Minister of Ethiopia, Meles Zenawi, who passed away on 20<sup>th</sup> of August 2012 while receiving medical treatment abroad. It was noted that Prime Minister Meles was a true son of Africa who strongly advocated for statistics and believed in evidence based decision making in Africa. He will be truly and highly missed not only by his country Ethiopia, but the whole world.

The opening ceremony of the workshop was officiated by the Deputy Executive Secretary of the UNECA, the Resident Representative for the AfDB in Ethiopia, the representative of the Statistics Division of FAO, and the Director General of CSA Ethiopia and Chair of the Global Executive Board of the Global Strategy for Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics. They all highlighted the importance of statistics for development of Africa and expectations that countries and partners have in the successful implementation of the Global Strategy.

## **2. Topics presented and discussed at the Workshop**

The following topics were presented and discussed at the workshop:

- a) Introduction to the Implementation Plan of the Global Strategy for Improving Statistics for Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture, and Rural Development.
- b) Action Plan for Africa (2011-2015) of the Global Strategy, covering the following:
  - i. Governance mechanism
  - ii. Technical Assistance component
  - iii. Training Component
  - iv. Research Component

- v. Background to the Country Assessment process.
- c) Presentation on some selected national agricultural statistics systems (Cape Verde, Morocco, Niger and Ethiopia).
- d) Country Assessment instruments/tools:
  - i. Presentation and discussion on the use the Country Assessment questionnaires
  - ii. Demonstration, discussion, and practice on the use of the online application for data capture and submission.
- e) Presentations on the Minimum Core Data Set:
  - i. General introduction
  - ii. Improving Livestock Statistics in Uganda: Core indicators and Data integration.
- f) Operational arrangements for compiling country assessment data at country levels – A way forward.

### **3. Discussions**

Discussions during the workshop included, among others, the following issues:

- Arrangements and modalities on how countries can get access to resources provided by development partners.
- Clarifications on the role to be played by the national coordination structure of the program (National Bureau of Statistics and Ministry of Agriculture).
- Improvement of relationships between National Bureaus of Statistics and Ministries of Agriculture in order to avoid duplications and ensure the creation synergies.
- How the National Statistics committees can be actually operational.
- To make use of CountrySTAT data and avoid duplications in data compilation.
- The Training component to consider a training program for non statistician professionals who work for national statistics systems.
- Keep the Online Application improving based on observations that will be raised by users.
- How to strengthen further the communication and dialogue between data producers and users.
- To ensure that used concepts and definitions are aligned to international standards and that they are integrated to the online application for user reference.

### **3. Outcomes of the workshop**

The participants appreciated the workshop initiative on the Action Plan and its potential to improve agricultural and rural statistics in Africa, and agreed on the way forward regarding

the use of the country assessment instruments, the web-based application for country assessment, and operational arrangements for compiling country assessment data at national level (See Annex 3). In brief, the country assessment instruments developed were adopted with some few changes being proposed. The same applies to the web-based application to be used for the country assessment data entry, submission and management. Participants agreed also on clear operational arrangements that would ensure the sustainability and country ownership of the implementation of the Action Plan for Africa. In that respect, they recommended that the International Comparison Program (ICP) model should be used as reference. As a way forward, a roadmap for the implementation of the country assessment as well as other related activities was adopted (See Annex 4).

## Annex 1 – Agenda of the meeting

# Improving Statistics for Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture, and Rural Development - Action Plan for Africa

## 2<sup>nd</sup> Round Launching and Training Workshop on Country Assessment

27 - 29 August 2012, Addis Ababa - Ethiopia

Monday, 27 August 2012		
08:30- 09:00	Registration	
<b>Chair: Director General CSA Ethiopia</b>		
<b>SESSION 0: Opening remarks, meeting objectives and expected outcomes, and presentation of the agenda</b>		
09:00- 09:30	Opening remarks	CSA Ethiopia, FAO, AfDB Res, DES-UNECA
09 :30 - 10:00	<i>Family picture and Coffee-break</i>	
10:15 - 10:25	Introduction, meeting objectives and expected outcomes, and presentation of the agenda	AfDB
10:25 - 10:30	Proposql of rqqpoteurs by session	
<b>Chair: Director General CSA Ethiopia</b>		
<b>SESSION 1: Introduction to the Global Strategy and Action Plan for Africa</b>		
10:30- 11:00	Introduction to the Global Strategy	FAO/AfDB
11:00- 11:30	Governance Mechanism of the Action Plan for Africa	AfDB
11:30- 12:00	Discussions	
12:00-13:30	<i>Lunch break</i>	
13:30-14:00	Technical Assistance component of the Action Plan for Africa	AfDB
14:00-14:30	Training component of the Action Plan for Africa	ECA
14:30-15:00	Research component of the Global Strategy	FAO
15:00-15:30	Discussions	
15:30-16:00	<i>Coffee-break</i>	
16:00-16:30	National Agricultural Statistical Systems	Cape Verde/Morocco/Niger/Ethiopia
16:30 -16:45	Discussions	
16:45-17:15	Background to the Country Assessment process	AfDB/FAO
17:15 -17:30	Discussions	

**Tuesday, 28 August 2012**

**Chair: FAO**

**SESSION 2: Presentation and discussions the use of the Country Assessment questionnaire**

<b>08:30 - 09:10</b>	Module 1 of the questionnaire of the Country Assessment	AfDB
<b>09:10 - 09:30</b>	Discussions	
<b>09:30 - 10:10</b>	Module 2 of the questionnaire of the Country Assessment	AfDB
<b>10:10 - 10:30</b>	Discussions	
<b>10:30 - 11:00</b>	<i>Coffee-break</i>	
<b>11:00 - 11:40</b>	Module 3 of the questionnaire of the Country Assessment	AfDB
<b>11:40 - 12:00</b>	Discussions	
<b>12:00 - 12:30</b>	Minimum core data sets	AfDB/FAO
<b>12:30 - 12:45</b>	Discussions	
<b>12:45 - 14:00</b>	<i>Lunch break</i>	

**Chair: ECA**

**SESSION 3: Demonstration and discussions the use of the Data Input Application**

<b>14:00 - 15:00</b>	Demonstration of the Data Input application	AfDB
<b>15:00 - 15:30</b>	Discussions	
<b>15:30 - 15:45</b>	<i>Coffee-break</i>	
<b>15:45 - 17:00</b>	Practice on the use of the Data Input application	AfDB
<b>19:00</b>	<i>Cocktail</i>	

**Wednesday, 29 August 2012**

**Chair: ECA**

**SESSION 3: Demonstration and discussions the use of the Data Input Application (Cn't) and working group sessions**

<b>08:30 - 10:00</b>	Practice on the use of the Data Input application	AfDB
<b>10:00 - 10:15</b>	<i>Coffee-break</i>	
<b>10:15 - 10:30</b>	Action Plan for Africa of the GS: Main achievements and way forward	AfDB
<b>10:30 - 12:00</b>	Operational arrangements for compiling country assessment data at country levels (on data collection and on the use of the Web-based application)	Two working groups
<b>12:00 - 12:30</b>	Presentation/discussions on findings and possible proposals for improvement of operational arrangements	Working group rapporteurs
<b>12:30 - 14:00</b>	<i>Lunch break</i>	
<b>14:00 - 16:00</b>	Drafting of main conclusions of the workshop and way forward	AfDB
<b>16:00 - 16:15</b>	<i>Coffee-break</i>	
<b>16:15 - 16:30</b>	Discussions and adoption of the main conclusions of the workshop and way forward	
<b>16:30-17:00</b>	Concluding remarks	AfDB/CSA Ethiopia

## Annex 2 – List of participants

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## **Annex 3 – Major resolutions**

# **The Major Resolutions of the Agricultural Statistics Country Assessment workshop in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia from the 27<sup>th</sup>- 29<sup>th</sup> August 2012**

## **Introduction**

Participants from 21 African countries and development partners including AU, AfDB, ECA, FAO, and IFPRI (see list of participants in annex 2) represented during this 2<sup>nd</sup> workshop on the Country Assessment of agricultural statistics as part of the Action Plan for Africa of the Global Strategy for Improving Statistics for Food Security, Sustainable Agriculture, and Rural Development, have extensively deliberated on the overall contents of the strategy, its governance mechanism, technical components and implementation arrangement. Having done so, detailed discussions have been held on the Country Assessment framework and the role of countries in ensuring the successful implementation of the action plan.

The objective of the workshop was to appraise the participants on the action plan for Africa and train them on the effective use of the developed country assessment instruments in compiling information related to agriculture statistical capacity needs.

The participants read and appreciated the Action Plan for Africa and its components as a major initiative for improving agricultural statistics in Africa, and urged partners to support follow-up activities.

As a result, the following resolution with regards to the instruments used for the country assessment, online application and the operational arrangements have been endorsed.

### **1) Instruments of the Country Assessment**

#### **i. Questionnaire content**

- To implement the suggested editing of the French version of the questionnaire and reflect it on the online application.
- AfDB and partners shall develop a guideline to support country efficiently implement the country assessment.

#### **ii. Online Application**

The participants acknowledged and recognized the online application as option 1 for administering the country assessment framework. Having done so, the participants have proposed improvements on the online application. In particular, it should be ensured that it is similar to the paper based questionnaire.

### **2) Operational Arrangement**

- #### **i. Ensure provision of resources to enable countries implement the action plan.**
- To this end the International Comparison Programme (ICP) initiative may be used as a reference.

- ii. In order to ensure sustained ownership of the Action Plan for Africa and its implementation, countries are responsible for the establishment of the governance structure at national level. As a result, designating the country level coordinator should be an immediate task for each country.
- iii. National Governments should commit themselves to supporting statistical development. This calls for effective statistical advocacy.
- iv. The participants called on AfDB, UNECA, FAO and other development partners to provide needed assistance to meet any shortfall in government support.
- v. The participants agreed on the way forward and the time line of the next steps of activities which is annexed with this resolution.
- vi. Establishment of a web-based Forum of Agricultural Statisticians in Africa (FASIA)

## **Annex 4 – Road Map**

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Time frame</b>	<b>Responsible</b>
Ongoing work: Tabulation/Analysis plans/guidelines (Development/building indicators of data quality and statistical development)	End Sep 2012	Regional Implementing Agencies (AfDB, ECA, FAO)
Fine-tuning the web-based application	Mid-Sep 2012	AfDB
Providing access to the web based application	End Sep 2012	AfDB
Establishing governance structures in countries, viz: National Agricultural Statistics Committee, National Technical Working Group and designating a National Strategy Coordinator	End of Sep 2012	Countries
Brief members of the governing structures	Sep 2012	Countries
Data collection/compilation and submission: (a) Using the web-based application, (b) Using soft copies	Oct 2012	Countries
National Workshops on the Action Plan for Africa	Nov 2012	Countries in partnership with regional implementing agencies
Data checking and validation (at regional level)	End of Nov 2012	AfDB
Data processing – Tabulation, indicator calculation	Dec 2012	AfDB
Data analysis	End Dec 2012	AfDB
Preliminary results: discussions and validation	End of Jan 2013	AfDB/Partners
Results report: indicators, country profiles, ranking and grouping	End of Feb 2013	AfDB
In-depth assessment and preparation of <u>national action plans</u> for the 1 <sup>st</sup> 12 countries	March-July 2013	Countries and Implementing agencies
Establishment/management of M&E baseline database	March-July 2013	AfDB