



Expert Meeting 1

**Assessing Country Capacity to Produce
Agricultural and Rural Statistics**

3 DECEMBER 2012, 14:00 – 17:30

RED ROOM, WFP HEADQUARTERS

Background

Assessing country capacity to produce core agricultural and rural statistics is the starting point for implementation of the Global Strategy. The results of the assessment will determine the scope of the national implementation plans, the critical areas for priority intervention, the time frame of activities, and the choice of appropriate methodologies for areas of improvement.

A number of frameworks for assessing statistical systems are available, and there is general agreement on the dimensions of statistical systems that determine the capacity; and on the measures of capacity based on the activities of the system and the quality of its outputs. These frameworks have evolved under the leadership of international organizations including IMF, the World Bank, EUROSTAT, UNESCO and the UN. However, none of the frameworks specifically address agricultural and rural statistics.

The development of the country assessment methodology for the Global Strategy took into account the available frameworks for statistical capacity and also the methods for monitoring regional agricultural statistical systems, in Asia and the Pacific and Africa, used for the FAO Commissions on Agricultural Statistics. These methods compared the performance of agricultural statistical systems based on responses to a standard questionnaire, reported in their biennial regional meetings.

The proposed country assessment methodology consists of an initial assessment using a self-reporting Standard Questionnaire followed by an in-depth assessment by experts.

The Standard Questionnaire was developed through an international consultation process starting from the work of the FAO Commissions. The data collected through the Standard Questionnaire will be used to develop indicators in order to create a profile of country capacity. These indicators which will provide information on various dimensions and elements of country capacity could be used to group countries according to the level of development of their statistical systems. These groupings will be used to determine the priority countries for implementation of the Global Strategy as well as for monitoring their progress as per logical frame work of Action Plan of the Global Strategy.

In-depth assessments will be carried out in the selected priority countries through expert missions and stakeholder workshops. A common methodology and guidelines for the in-depth assessment will be developed. The in-depth assessments will provide the necessary information to prioritize capacity development activities in countries and select critical areas for intervention. It will also contribute to preparation of the Sector Strategic Plans for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SSPARS) which will guide the implementation of the Global Strategy in the countries.

The meeting will review the normative work carried out by FAO and its partners so far. The inputs of the experts will contribute to the refinement and finalization of the Country Assessment methodology.

Objectives

1. To be informed of the progress of the work on Initial Country Assessments in different regions.
- 2.a To build consensus on the approach to building Indicators of Country Capacity and country profiles.
- 2.b To build consensus on the criteria and methodology to be used for grouping the countries (based on the indicators).
3. To agree on the objective, scope, methodology and reporting format of the in-depth country assessments.
4. To identify unresolved technical issues, if any, on the above themes for a detailed discussion in the Task Force meeting following the Expert Meeting.

Provisional Timetable

Chair: Ben Kiregyera	
	Indicators for measuring and monitoring country capacity to produce agricultural and rural statistics and the criteria for grouping the countries
14:00 – 14:15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Progress of Initial Country Assessments in Asia and the Pacific, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and CIS regions; <i>(Mukesh Srivastava, FAO)</i>
14:15 – 14:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicators of country capacity to produce agricultural and rural statistics; <i>(Mike Trant, FAO)</i>
14:30 – 14:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Possible criteria and methodology for grouping the countries; <i>(Ben Kiregyera, AfDB)</i>
14:45 – 15:00	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alternative criteria for grouping the countries <i>(Miguel Galmes, FAO)</i>
15:00 – 15:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion;
15:30 – 16:00	Coffee break
Chair: Miguel Galmes	
	The scope, methodology and result of the in-depth country assessment
16:00 – 16:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation of initial ideas scope, methods and reporting format of In-depth Assessment; <i>(Muwanga Zake, FAO)</i>
16:30 – 16:45	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experience of NASS, USDA in assessing country capacity <i>(Ms Terry Holland, NASS)</i>
16:45 – 17:30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Discussion.