



# Implementation of the Research Plan

04 DECEMBER 2012, 09:00 – 12:30

RED ROOM, WFP HEADQUARTERS

## Summary Report

### I. Introduction

The goal of the research plan in the *Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics* is to develop and disseminate advanced and cost-effective methodologies, tools, and standards for the use of agricultural statisticians in developing countries. These will be in the form of methodological publications which will be the basis for guidelines, handbooks, and documentation of good practices in priority research topics to foster the production of reliable statistics.

Main stakeholders proposed a long list of research topics. Due to resource constraints, a subset of research topics responding to explicit country data needs and concerning the core set of variables and the pillars of the Global Strategy were selected and prioritized, through a long consultative process, including various meetings (in Tunis in February 2010, in Rome FAO Headquarters, September 2010). The list of prioritized topics and the modalities for the implementation were presented at the ICAS-V and discussed with some institutions and with the Friends of Chair task team for the research plan.

During this session, the modalities for the implementation and the priority topics to be addressed in 2013 were presented and discussed, in order to receive feedbacks.

### II. Objectives

- 1) Receive feedbacks on the modalities for the implementation of the research plan;
- 2) Receive feedbacks on the priority topics for implementation in 2013.

### III. Timetable

CHAIR: Mr. Pietro Gennari, FAO	
09:00 – 09:30	Presentation on modalities for the implementation of the research plan ( <b>Mr. Naman Keita, FAO</b> )
09:30 – 10:30	Discussion
<b>10:30 – 11:00</b>	<b>Coffee-break</b>
11:00 – 11:30	Presentation on the priority topics to be addressed in 2013 ( <b>Ms. Elisabetta Carfagna, FAO</b> )
11:30 – 12:30	Discussion

#### IV. Main conclusions

##### 1) Agenda item 1. Presentation on modalities for the implementation of the research plan

The research activities will develop 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 basic principles are:

- FAO will be in charge of technical coordination and supervision
- The best expertise for a given topic will be involved
- The involvement of the best expertise will be transparent and will follow FAO administrative rules.

The main structures for implementing the research plan will be:

- The Global Office with the Research Coordinator which will have the overall responsibility for the research plan;
- The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) which will have the key advisory role to ensure the highest quality of the results;
- A roster of experts and research institutions at global, regional and national levels to serve as resource base.

The members of the SAC will be appointed by the Global Steering Committee (GSC) and will be selected among internationally known experts in various methodological domains for agricultural statistics.

The scientific advisory committee will be responsible for:

- Providing technical advice to the global office on technical issues related to the research plan for implementing the Global Strategy;
- Validation of the process and results of the research activities and ensuring that the best technical standards are respected.

Annually, the priority research topics to be addressed are proposed by the Global Office to the GSC for approval. The activities concerning these research topics are included in the workplan of the Global Office.

Some research activities will be internally conducted by FAO, whereas others will be outsourced. In case the whole set of activities of a research topic will be outsourced, the Global Office will:

- Prepare a request for expression of interest, in collaboration with the SAC;
- Review and evaluate submissions with support from the SAC;
- Select the most appropriate institutions/experts (in conformity with FAO rules), to work with technical supervision of the research coordinator;
- Validate results with assistance of the SAC.

**Discussion 1:** On the modalities of implementation:

- Discussion took place on various aspects of the procedures for implementation.
- Concerning the procedure for selecting external partners, one suggestion was doing call for proposals to be disseminated worldwide, in order to allow the participation of research institutions from developing countries.
- ISTAT mentioned the EC principle of ESNET projects in which the call for partners is lead by a partner or a group of partners that draft the proposals; although recognized that ESNET approach provides integrated results only when the key aims of the project and the road map are very well defined, and it is not always the case.
- Clarifications were requested about the role of the regional organizations and the countries in the research plan. It was clarified that regional organizations and countries have been involved in the identification of the research topics, as well as in their prioritization. The regional organization and the countries have also guaranteed that important research topics relevant to the regions are included in the research plan. Moreover, the regional organizations have the task to collect good

practices in the regions, which are one of the baseline for methodological research. Finally, coordination is foreseen with research activities funded outside the global trust fund, in order to consolidate the results and avoid duplication of efforts.

#### **Decision 1:**

The Global Office will prepare the terms of reference for the SAC and will submit a list of potential members to the GSC. The Global Office will also define the procedures for selecting research institutions considering the elements of the discussion.

#### **2) Agenda item 2. Presentation on the priority topics to be addressed in 2013**

A list of research topics responding to explicit country data needs and concerning the core set of variables and the pillars of the Global Strategy were selected and prioritized, through a long consultative process, including various meetings with main stakeholders (among which regional organizations and countries). The list of prioritized topics and the modalities for the implementation were presented at the ICAS-V and discussed with some institutions and with the Friends of Chair task team for the research plan.

The prioritized research topics were briefly described, specifying which ones are funded with the hard commitments.

Then, based on the list of prioritized research topics, the global office showed the list of research topics which were supposed to be initiated in 2012 and completed in 2013 or 2014 and the ones which were planned to be initiated in 2013. Then, other research projects under the Global Strategy umbrella, but not funded by the Global Trust Fund, were briefly described.

Finally, the list of activities to be carried out for the various research topics and the corresponding outputs were presented.

The aim was receiving feedbacks on the priority topics to be addressed in 2013.

#### ***Discussion 2:*** Priority topics for 2013

- Clarifications on the prioritization of funded research topics were requested. DFID confirmed that it has not earmarked specific research topics, in the spirit of the contribution to the global trust fund. It was suggested to conduct a joint visit to the European Commission in order to mobilize resources for the non-funded research topics.
- The importance of a dissemination strategy was emphasized.
- The need to coordinate the activities was stressed, in order to ensure more efficient investments. It was clarified that coordination is to be ensured by the global office.
- Discussion took place regarding the integration of experts' opinions into agriculture statistics, along with administrative data as a cost-efficient source of information (there will be a specific topic on this matter on next ICAS meeting).
- The relevance of the research on the use of new technologies was emphasized.

#### **Decisions 2:**

- The discussion confirmed the research plan for 2013.
- Further resource mobilization efforts will be done in order to mobilize resources for the non funded prioritized research topics.

## ANNEX 1: List of participants

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