

## Country Challenges

Fiji is an isolated archipelago of 300 islands in the South Pacific that includes both low-lying coral and limestone and high-altitude volcanic masses. Agriculture is important for peoples' livelihoods in Fiji, employing close to 60 percent of its population, though it accounts for only a 10.6 percent share of its GDP. Fiji has not yet developed a national strategy for collection of agricultural statistics, and there is a lack of regular collection and survey activity. Additionally, there is a lack of financial and human resources to build and maintain agricultural statistics systems in the country. Fiji does not have uniform standards, definitions, data collection and reporting methods, and the information that is available suffers from poor dissemination. The important fisheries and aquaculture industries suffer from weak data collection and management systems. The country is furthermore highly susceptible to climate change in agriculture, forestry, fishery and water resources.



**Agriculture in Fiji accounts for only a 10.6 percent share of its GDP**



**Close to 60 percent of the population in Fiji is employed in agriculture**



## Global Strategy Solutions

An In-depth Country Assessment (IdCA) by the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Asia Pacific recommended a number of actions for Fiji. The availability and regularity of agricultural production statistics should be improved, starting with conducting trainings in a number of areas, including basic statistical methods, agricultural statistics methods, advanced statistics methods and specialized techniques. The Global Strategy will support Fiji's 2016 Agricultural Survey, while also supporting development of agricultural statistics infrastructure that advances their collection and integrity, including an agriculture module in the five-year Household Income and Expenditure Survey and master sampling frame for survey activity in post-Census years. Adopting mobile technologies will also lead to improved availability and timeliness of data, as well as improved decision making.

## Current Country Work

The Global Strategy in Asia Pacific is collaborating with the Ministry of Agriculture, Ministry of Fisheries and Forests and the Fiji Bureau of Statistics to improve agricultural statistics collection and use through the following actions.

- Support and assist in developing the 2016 Agricultural Survey
- Develop an agriculture module for the 2017 Population and Housing Census
- Evaluate administrative data collection methodologies and recommend areas for improvement
- Evaluate adoption of mobile technologies for agriculture and fisheries data collections, and make recommendations
- Train individuals and agencies in basic statistical methods, advanced statistical methods, methods used in agricultural statistics and specialized statistics techniques
- Develop a strategic plan for agricultural and rural statistics

## Towards a Statistics Secure Future

Fiji has advanced towards its goal of improved agricultural and rural statistics through receiving three missions and conducting two workshops in support of Global Strategy work. This has resulted in the completion of three key reports, including an In-Depth Country Assessment, a country proposal for short-term technical assistance and training, and a road map for a Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS). The IdCA has been officially endorsed by the Fiji Government. The country proposal paper identified four priority work streams, which are currently under Government consideration: assessment of the 2015 Agriculture Baseline Survey outcomes, supporting and improving administrative data collection activities, improving the availability and regularity of agriculture production statistics and adoption of mobile technologies by the Ministry of Agriculture and Ministry of Fisheries and Forests for data collection.



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