

## Country Challenges

Bordered by the Black Sea and large neighbouring countries Russia and Turkey, Georgia is a mountainous country that also is rich in farmland. Though more than 43 percent of Georgia's land is designated as agricultural land, its agricultural output remains under 10 percent of the its GDP. Increasing agricultural output and tackling rural poverty are issues that Georgia is addressing through its Strategy for Agricultural Development in Georgia 2015-2020. Data from recent agriculture and population censuses will be published in 2016, and can be used as a foundation to further develop agricultural statistics. In addition, Georgia has signed an association agreement with the European Union in 2014 that will require the country to strengthen its statistical system and align it with the European Statistical System. A project in support of the agreement has been initiated and Georgia must act on the budget and technical assistance for improving statistics that it has received.



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## 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 Georgia. An integrated system of agricultural, environmental and rural statistics, which can meet and respond to the present and emerging data requirements of the planners and policy makers in Georgia, is needed. A better data collection system using new technology is also needed. Georgia can build its capacity for agricultural statistics by investing in human resources, making better use of technology and building statistical infrastructure and registers. Bridging data gaps at sub-national levels and improving availability and quality of statistics in a number of important areas, including forestry, fisheries and aquaculture, water and environment, is also an important step. Georgia should work to improve the quality of its sample survey of agricultural holdings and its output. New surveys and products will lead to better data quality in a number of areas and will require the implementation of training programmes in a number of important disciplines, including crop forecasting, data collection of bio products and commercial livestock slaughter, amongst others.



## Current Country Work

The Global Strategy in Asia Pacific is collaborating with the National Statistics Office of Georgia (GEOSTAT) to improve agricultural statistics through the following actions.

- Improve data quality and coverage in the annual agricultural surveys carried out by GEOSTAT
- Develop methodologies for the objective measurement of yields for different crops
- Ensure high-quality documentation and archiving of data from recent surveys and censuses
- Develop a comprehensive process for geo-referencing agricultural statistics and integrating sampling frames
- Identify data needs and priority indicators for rural development
- Provide trainings in targeted areas for GEOSTAT and other staff involved in statistical activities
- Develop a strategic plan for agricultural and rural statistics

## Towards a Statistics Secure Future

Georgia has advanced towards its goal of improved agricultural, environmental and rural statistics by conducting an in-depth assessment of its agricultural statistics system and undertaking preparation of a Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS) as part of the implementation of Global Strategy activities in the country. 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 SPARS. The country proposal paper identified up to seven short-term project activities, which commenced in 2015 or will commence in 2016 (see *Current Country Work* above). The SPARS document has been completed and submitted to the Georgian Government and is under consideration, with endorsement expected in early 2016.



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