

# PAKISTAN

## Country Challenges

The sixth most populous country in the world, Pakistan is ethnically, linguistically and geographically diverse. Located in South Asia, Pakistan has a semi-industrialized economy with a well-integrated agricultural sector – approximately 35 percent of its land area is dedicated to it, making up a 20 percent share of its overall economy. However, poverty, food insecurity and food safety are still prominent in Pakistan. The agriculture sector has underperformed in recent years, due to host of factors related to technological innovation, quality and quantity of input supply, lack of investment, infrastructure maintenance, pest and livestock diseases and energy crises. There are data gaps in agriculture related statistics and often data that does exist is not of high quality and is not timely. There are no specific training programmes for agricultural statisticians, and the national statistics system is decentralized and weak in available resources and institutional infrastructure. Staff at the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics and Provincial Bureau of Statistics therefore often lack skills in sample surveying and other statistical methodologies, and available technologies are underutilized.



**More than 35 percent of Pakistan's land is designated as agricultural land**



**Agricultural output contributes to 20 percent of Pakistan's GDP**



## Global Strategy Solutions

An In-depth Country Assessment (IdCA) completed by the Global Strategy in Asia Pacific recommended a number of actions for Pakistan. The first action should be to improve the national accounts for the agricultural sector incorporating all the minimum sets of data required. This would be part of an important and needed effort to develop an integrated system of agricultural and livestock statistics. Pakistan also needs to build its capacity to produce agricultural statistics, as well as improve statistics in several key areas, including fisheries and livestock, commodity balance sheets and food balance sheets preparation. Development of a system for agro-environmental statistics is also a priority. Finally, rationalizing agricultural price statistics through a series of steps including cost of production statistics and standard criteria will lead to revised price indices, which should meet international standards. These steps will inform development of a Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS).

## Current Country Work

The Global Strategy in Asia Pacific is collaborating with the Government of Pakistan; Ministry of National Food Security and Research and the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics to activate an ambitious plan that will meet the country's agricultural and rural statistics needs. The plan will concentrate on the following actions.

- Develop a Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS)
- Improve the national accounts in the agricultural sector through review
- Develop an integrated system of census/survey on agricultural and livestock statistics
- Build agricultural statistics capacity through skills assessments and needs assessments for technical equipment, including CAPI (Computer Assisted Personal Interviewing)
- Improve fisheries statistics through a thorough review of their current state and following recommendations
- Improve the commodity balance sheet and preparation of the food balance sheets through newly developed methodology, identification of data weaknesses and checking data consistency
- Develop agro-environmental statistics based on the System of Environmental Economic Accounting (SEEA)
- Rationalize agricultural price statistics through identification and documentation of all price collections, including cost of production and recommending measures to make them internationally acceptable

## Towards a Statistics Secure Future

Pakistan has made notable progress towards its goal of improving and modernizing its agricultural statistics system and launching a Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS). Three country missions have led to the completion of three important reports: an In-depth Country Assessment (IdCA), SPARS roadmap and country proposal for technical assistance. All three have been endorsed by the Ministry of National Food Security and Research (MNFSR). Pakistan has dedicated specific staff to oversee the SPARS and Global Strategy technical assistance work in the country. The Pakistan SPARS, with a specific focus on provincial statistical authorities, will be drafted in the first quarter of 2017, and will be submitted for approval and launch shortly thereafter.



**FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific**  
39 Phra Atit Road  
Bangkok 10200, Thailand  
GlobalStrategy-AP@fao.org  
www.gsars.org

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