

Global Strategy

IMPROVING AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL STATISTICS
IN ASIA PACIFIC



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Overview of Global Strategy Activities in Asia Pacific Region to date

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Global Strategy To Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics (GS)

- **CONTEXT**

Developing countries increasingly face:

- Declining Quality of Agricultural and Rural Statistics over time
- Declining capacity of Statistical Systems to meet growing data demands
- Lack of Resources for data collection => Low priority

- **OVERVIEW**

- An initiative of the UNSC to be implemented in 90 countries in the world and 20 countries in Asia Pacific region over 5 years
- Developed through an extensive consultation process with International Organizations, National Stakeholders and NGOs
- Focusses on Strategic Planning and Capacity Building

- **IMPACT**

- Improve evidence-based decision making for poverty reduction, food security, sustainable agriculture and rural development



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- **OUTCOME**

- Enable target countries to develop sustainable statistical systems for production and dissemination of accurate and timely agricultural and rural statistics, comparable over time and across countries.

- **COVERAGE**

- Crops
- Livestock
- Forestry
- Fisheries
- Water
- Environment



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- **APPROACH** based on 3 Pillars
 - 1. Establish a minimum set of core data** that countries will disseminate on a regular basis to meet current and emerging demands
 - 2. Integrate agriculture into NSSs** to meet the emerging requirements that statistical information be linked across the economic, social and environmental domains
 - 3. Foster the sustainability of agricultural statistical systems** through governance and statistical capacity building



GS: Governance Mechanism

- **Effective governing bodies set up and functioning**
- **At global level**
 - Global Steering Committee
 - Global Office acts as the Secretariat of the GSC at FAO Rome
- **At Regional level**
 - Regional Steering Committee in each region
 - Regional Office to act as Secretariat of RSC
 - Asia Pacific Regional Office established at FAORAP Bangkok
- **At National level**
 - Selected Country identifies a Lead agency and nominates a senior official as National Strategic Coordinator



Implementation Process and Outputs

Process	Outputs
Select implementing countries	
Conduct in-depth assessments and identify priority areas needing improvement	IdCA Report
Develop Roadmap for Long Term Strategic Plans	Roadmap for SPARS
Identify Areas for Priority Assistance	Country Proposal
Implementation of endorsed activities	
-Developing Institutional Infrastructure	
-Technical assistance on methodological issues	
-Training assistance on human resource development	
Synergy of efforts with Resource Partners in implementing projects	Resource Use Efficiency



Regional Office Activities

- **Regional Action Plan** has been developed and approved
- **Regional Steering Committee (RSC)** is established
 - RSC guides implementation work based on the RAP
 - Approves selection of 4-5 countries every year
 - Recommends short term projects for improvement
- **Assistance to Countries**
 - Developing Institutional Infrastructure
 - Technical assistance on methodological issues
 - Training assistance on human resource development
- **Selection of countries**
 - Level of Political will and commitment to improve agricultural statistics
 - Opportunity for synergies with other Ongoing or Planned large-scale statistical activities
 - Importance of Agriculture
 - Level of Statistical Development



GS Progress in Asia Pacific

Country	Year	Status
Bangladesh (anchor country BMGF)	2013	IdCA Report completed and Country Priorities Identified
Bhutan	2013	
Indonesia	2013	
Samoa	2013	
Sri Lanka	2013	
Fiji	2014	
Georgia	2014	2015
Lao PDR	2014	
Myanmar	2014	Dec 2014
	Assessment completed	Assessment to be initiated
	Assessment in Progress	

Impact of In-Country Work so far

- Improved recognition of importance of agricultural statistics
- Greater appreciation for coordinated efforts between NSO and Line Ministries
- Improved willingness to adopt best practices across countries
- Better informed stakeholders and their active participation
- Enhanced constituency of champions of agricultural statistics



Major Findings in Implementing Countries

- Weak Institutional Infrastructure to collect and disseminate agricultural statistics
- Overlapping roles and responsibilities between stakeholders
- Lack of Coordination mechanisms impacting resource use efficiency
- Outdated methodologies and non adoption of latest technological tools
- Reliance on subjective methods (eye estimation) or administrative reporting systems to compile agricultural statistics
- Absence of strategic planning to improve agricultural statistics on NSDS lines
- Inadequate financial and human resources to meet data demands



Challenges Ahead

- Wide diversity of administrative arrangements for statistical activities across countries.
 - ✘ One shoe fits all
 - ✓ A package of best practices
- Wide gap in needs and availability of resources to finance agricultural statistics improvement plans for
 - Human Resource Capacity Building
 - Infrastructure Building
 - Technical Assistance for methodological improvements



Priority Areas for Technical Assistance

- Assist countries to Develop their Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics
- Support the Development of Coordination Mechanisms for better resource use efficiency
- Methodological improvements for better assessment of crops, livestock, forestry and fisheries production
- Use of latest technologies (GIS, GPS, RS) for timely and quality data collection and database management
- Improved Administrative Reporting Systems
- Harmonized data collections from different sources
- Support for conduct of national level surveys and censuses



Opportunities for Partners

- Promote strategic planning in achieving the GS objectives at national level.
- Promote improvement of agricultural statistics in all sub-sectors as per strategic plan
- International cooperation and coordination needed to identify country level synergies in project implementation
- Partnerships based on mutual areas of interest





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ASIA PACIFIC REGION



Thank You

