



Third Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee

Summary Record



DATE, TIME, VENUE

DATE: 13 -14 November 2014

TIME: 13:30 – 16:00 Hrs (13 November); 09:00 – 16:00 Hrs (14 November) (Bangkok Time)

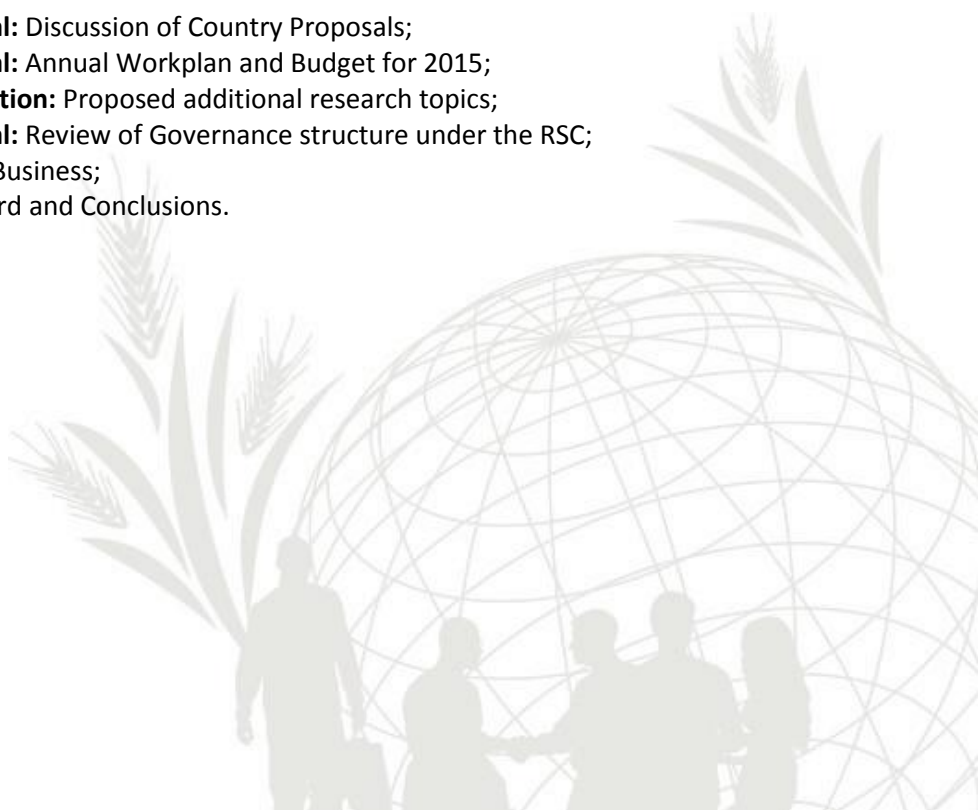
VENUE: FAO RAP Conference Room in Bangkok, Thailand

RSC PARTICIPANTS (in attendance)

ADB: Dalisay S. Maligalig
China: Wei Zhou
ESCAP-SIAP: Margarita Guerrero
FAO: Mukesh Srivastava
Allan Nicholls
Dalip Singh
Yohei Kunikane
Anthony Burgard
Fiji: Sera Baleinailaga Bose Namata
India: Rajeev Lochan
Japan: Nobunori Kuga
Philippines: Romeo Recide
Samoa: Noataga Edith Taosoga
SPC: Anna Fink
Sri Lanka: Amarajeewa Satharasinghe
Viet Nam: Do Thi Thu Ha

AGENDA (Details given in Annex 1)

1. **INTRODUCTION – for information**
2. **AGENDA ITEM 1 – for information:** Activity Report from the Regional Office;
3. **AGENDA ITEM 2 – for information:** Technical Assistance Activity Report from the Regional Office;
4. **AGENDA ITEM 3 – for approval:** Selection of additional implementing countries in 2015;
5. **AGENDA ITEM 4 – for information:** Training Activity Report from SIAP;
6. **AGENDA ITEM 5 – for information:** ADB Activities in Support of Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics;
7. **AGENDA ITEM 6 – for approval:** Discussion of Country Proposals;
8. **AGENDA ITEM 7 – for approval:** Annual Workplan and Budget for 2015;
9. **AGENDA ITEM 8 – for information:** Proposed additional research topics;
10. **AGENDA ITEM 9 – for approval:** Review of Governance structure under the RSC;
11. **AGENDA ITEM 10:** Any Other Business;
12. **AGENDA ITEM 11:** Way Forward and Conclusions.



OUTCOMES

1. INTRODUCTION – for information

Introduction: The Third Meeting of the Regional Steering Committee (RSC) for Asia Pacific was opened by the Chair, Mr Romeo Recide, from the Philippines. Appreciations were extended to the Secretariat for the invitation of RSC members to the *Briefing and Partnership Consultation on the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Asia and the Pacific* and the support by the Regional Office to advocate Global Strategy (GS) activities in the region through such activities.

2. AGENDA ITEM 1 – for information: Activity Report from the Regional Office (RO)

Introduction: Mr Allan Nicholls, Regional Office Coordinator of the GS in Asia Pacific, reported to the RSC the activities being done by the RO in support of the Global Strategy in the region. Main activities carried out by the RO, exclusive of its contribution to technical assistance activities, were reported to comprise of: (i) organization of bi-annual Regional Steering Committee meetings; (ii) organization and attendance of coordinating meetings with GS partners, and other relevant regional bodies involved in agricultural and rural statistics; (iii) drafting and compilation of regular reports to the RSC and GSC; (iv) developing communication materials for the promotion and advocacy of the Global Strategy in the region; (v) consultations with the Global Office of the GS to review the Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) framework; and (vi) logistical and administrative support for all activities including those related to the technical assistance component.

Discussion:

- The RSC sought further clarification on the changes being made to the M&E framework and requested the Secretariat to report on these changes under Agenda 7, Annual Workplan and Budget 2015.
- Clarifications were also sought on the development of the communications strategy being drafted by the RO. It was agreed that the communications strategy, when drafted, would be shared with implementing partners and the RSC before approval.
- The timeline for the required reports to the Global Office was outlined to the RSC; with emphasis on the Annual Workplan and Budget that is due for submission in December 2014 so that it may be considered and approved by the GSC in early 2015.

DECISION 1: *The RSC recommended that the Communications Strategy for Asia and the Pacific, when drafted, be shared with implementing partners and the RSC for final approval.*

3. AGENDA ITEM 2 – for information: Technical Assistance Activity Report from the Regional Office

Introduction: Mr Dalip Singh, Technical Assistance Statistician of the GS in Asia Pacific, reported to the RSC a summary of technical assistance activities being done by the RO in current implementing countries of: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Fiji, Georgia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Samoa, and Sri Lanka. It was noted that technical assistance activities in each of the implementing countries (other than Georgia and Myanmar) has started with an in-depth country assessment and the progress in each of the implementing countries was detailed.

Discussion:

- The RSC sought clarification on the compilation of *Country Capacity Indicators* used to express a broad measure of capacity in the country to produce agricultural and rural statistics. It was explained the indicators were a result of questionnaires filled during the in-depth country assessment process and compiled using guidelines by the Global Office available at www.gsars.org.

- With specific reference to Indonesia, the RSC questioned how related activities being conducted by other development organizations were being coordinated at the country level. It was clarified that ongoing activities within the country were identified prior to the in-depth country assessment and that partnerships were developed where possible.
- The RSC noted that many of the issues identified through the country assessment process required political support for sustainability (particularly the passing of the Statistics Law in Bhutan), and sought clarification of Regional Office's approach. The RO acknowledged these difficulties and noted that the identification and development of National Champions would be needed to support and advocate the development of agricultural and rural statistics within the country.
- Members of the RSC sought clarifications on the approach by the Global Strategy to integrate agriculture into the National Statistical System. It was noted by the RO that there was no set strategy, and that approaches would need to be tailored to each of the implementing countries. In a broad sense, the concept of integration was noted to centre on reducing duplicating efforts by data producing agencies and to introduce when relevant the linking of major censuses.
- The approach taken for the improvement of Administrative Reporting Systems was also questioned by the RSC, to which it was clarified by the Global Office that it was a major area of interest for research and that relevant publications could be expected in early 2016.

4. AGENDA ITEM 3 – for approval: Selection of additional implementing countries in 2015

Introduction: RSC members were presented with the Selection Criteria outlined by the Global Action Plan to inform their decision to endorse additional implementing countries for 2015 from those countries who had expressed interest.

Discussion:

- The RSC noted that the selection of countries in past meetings has maintained a balance of countries that were well distributed geographically; and highlighted a number of technical characteristics that were representative of different statistical systems in the region.
- To expedite the pace of implementation of the region, the RSC recommended that a larger set of countries be endorsed for implementation in 2015. A number of different approaches were discussed including:
 - Number of Countries: For achieving the project target of covering 20 countries by 2017, the RSC affirmed that the selection of a large set of countries would help to ensure that all the selected countries have sufficient time to carry out implementing activities before the end of the project. Two broad approaches discussed were either to select the target countries in one go or to make the selections every year. The RO suggested the later approach which allows the countries another chance to participate if they were unable to do so at previous occasions due to other pressing engagements. It was recommended that at least six countries be chosen in this round, and that a final round of selection of countries be done in 2015 to meet the project target. The RO expressed some concern on this approach noting the difficulties it has had in identifying suitable consultants to consistently carry out country-level activities. The RSC recommended that the RO hire a long term international consultant for technical assistance to support the increased work load.
 - Pacific Island Clusters: Noting the financial and resource requirements to cover the Pacific, the RSC recommended that the RO take a cluster approach for small Pacific Island countries. Appreciation for the approach was shared by members of the RSC and it was recommended that the Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC) help the RO to select countries that would be suitable for this approach. The RO agreed to report out-of-session to the RSC appropriate countries for this approach. The RO also agreed to adapt the process of in-depth assessments and other technical assistance activities to facilitate a cluster approach in the Pacific.

- In noting the selection criteria of the Global Action Plan, the proposal of the RO, and the outcomes of the ensuing discussion, the RSC endorsed six countries and a cluster of pacific island countries for implementation in 2015. These endorsed countries comprised of: Afghanistan, Cambodia, the Maldives, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Viet Nam.

DECISION 2: The RSC endorsed the selection of Afghanistan, Cambodia, the Maldives, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Viet Nam, and a to be determined cluster of Pacific Island Countries as implementing countries in 2015.

DECISION 3: The RSC recommended that the RO report out-of-session a selection of countries that were appropriate for cluster approach in the Pacific.

DECISION 4: The RSC endorsed the hiring of a long term international consultant for technical assistance in the Regional Office to support the increased workload associated with the selection of additional countries.

5. AGENDA ITEM 4 – for information: Training Activity Report from SIAP

Introduction: Ms Margarita Guerrero, SIAP, reported to the RSC a number of activities related to the training component of the Global Strategy in Asia Pacific, including the development of: (i) a network of trainers with expertise on agricultural and rural statistics; (ii) training needs assessment tools; (iii) training curriculum/ syllabus for agricultural and rural statistics; (iv) e-learning tools; and (v) regional training of trainers workshops on basic statistical methods. Progress on the training component was noted to be progressing, but still constrained by: (i) delayed staff recruitment, (ii) identifying relevant technical experts, and (iii) inadequate training budget.

Discussion:

- The RSC acknowledged the work being done by SIAP to develop a Training Needs Assessment that would be based on the in-depth country assessment and the resulting country proposals. In order to streamline activities; however, the RSC encouraged SIAP and the RO to explore the possibility of integrating the in-depth country assessment and the Training Needs Assessment for the next round of implementing countries.
- RSC members acknowledged that the training of basic statistics was the most crucial step in developing capacity in the region; and that country level approaches were often the most effective. SIAP affirmed these statements, but reiterated that no specific country level budgets were available for these activities currently.
- In recognizing the limited resources available to SIAP, it was discussed that the role of SIAP under the training component was not to necessarily provide training directly, but to establish capacity of the region to do training in a sustainable manner.

6. AGENDA ITEM 5 – for information: ADB Activities in Support of Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics

Introduction: Ms Dalisay Maligalig, ADB, reported to the RSC a number of activities being pursued by the ADB in relation to the research related objectives of the Global Strategy. It was clarified to the RSC that while the ADB was not receiving funds from the Global Trust Fund, it has committed its own resources to undertake research activities for: (i) the improvement of agricultural and rural statistics for food security through a series of methodological studies at the country levels; and (ii) developing and promoting innovative data collection methods for agricultural and rural statistics (primarily through the use of remote sensing techniques). It was also noted that the ADB has also been involved in a number of training and technical assistance activities throughout the region, providing: (i) training for the improvement of data collection in Lao PDR; (ii) Workshops to improve data documentation and archiving in Bhutan; and (iii) trainings on survey design in Viet Nam.

Discussion:

- The RSC expressed its appreciation of the ADB for its contributions to further agricultural and rural statistics in the region. Significant interest from country members of the RSC was also expressed and sought further information on the availability and use of satellite imagery for crop estimation.

7. AGENDA ITEM 6 – for approval: Discussion of Country Proposals

Introduction: Mr Nicholls explained to the RSC that the results of the In-depth Country Assessments have yielded a set of country proposals by each implementing country - describing short-medium term high priority activities needed to make improvements to agricultural and rural statistical systems. The RSC was then presented with concept notes of these identified activities and were asked to endorse selected proposals that could be funded using funds of the Global Strategy. RSC members were asked to consider each proposal based on a number of criteria that would advance agriculture and rural statistics in the country. Country Proposals were made available from: Bangladesh, Bhutan, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Samoa, and Sri Lanka; with a proposed budget allocation of USD 150 000 per country.

Discussion:

- Recognizing that not every country had proposed the development of a *Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS)* as part of the country proposal, the Global Office reiterated that the main objective of the Global Strategy was to support sustainable systems. The development of a SPARS was seen as an important element which would provide a long-term vision for the sustainable development of the agricultural statistics system in a country. While these concerns were acknowledged, RSC member countries also noted that limited resources will influence the decision on the planning and implementation of SPARS in the near term, and that some of the prioritized activities highlighted by the country would help to better prepare the country towards the development of a SPARS.
- SIAP noted that while many of the proposals included training activities, it should be advocated to countries that they carry out a Training Needs Assessment as one of their first proposed activities.
- The RSC recognized that there may be some overlaps in assistance with on-going projects by other development organizations in the region, and encouraged the RO to further explore possible synergies.
- The RSC questioned the proposed allocation of USD 150 000 per country and encouraged the RO to explore other allocation criteria to better support larger countries or those with higher needs assistance. The RO noted the concerns addressed by the RSC and reaffirmed that it would revise the country proposal paper based on the suggestions made and resubmit to RSC for its endorsement out-of-session.

DECISION 5: The RSC recommended the Regional Office to revise the Country Proposal paper based on the discussions taken place and to re-submit these proposals for endorsement by the RSC out-of-session.

DECISION 6: The RSC recommended the Regional Office to explore possibilities to provide appropriate country level training when and where possible.

8. AGENDA ITEM 7 – for approval: Annual Workplan and Budget for 2015

Introduction: The Annual Workplan and Budget for 2015 was presented to the RSC – detailing proposed activities of both the technical assistance and training components. Mr Nicholls noted that there was some carryover from 2014 due to delayed activities, and that some of these funds would go on to support continuing implementing activities in the all countries selected so far. The ADB under this agenda also promised to share with the RSC its own activity report for 2015 out-of-session.

Discussion:

- The RSC acknowledged the Workplan and Budget for 2015 and recommended for consideration some additional activities that could further help the region. Some of these proposals included: (i) an induction workshop for 2015 implementing countries; and (ii) a high-level advocacy event for the promotion of agricultural and rural statistics. The RSC encouraged the RO to explore the possibility of these proposals.

DECISION 7: The RSC endorsed the Annual Workplan and Budget for 2015 subject to the revisions that would allow for hiring of a long term international consultant to support country level activities.

9. AGENDA ITEM 8 – for information: Proposed Additional Research Topics

Introduction: Mr Christophe Duhamel, Global Coordinator of the GS, reported to the RSC the scope of the research programme being conducted by the Global Office in Rome in collaboration with several research partners throughout the world. In total, over 60 publications are expected to be ready in 2015 covering several key areas, including: improvement of data collection methods, dissemination of agricultural statistics, estimation of livestock, food security statistics, methods for crop estimates, remote sensing, the use of administrative sources; and the improvement of fishery, forestry, and environmental statistics.

Discussion:

- The RSC welcomed the efforts of the Global Office to expand the research available in the area of agricultural and rural statistics. Concerns were raised, however, on the application of these methodologies being distributed and assistance that would be required to adapt them on a country level. It was clarified that many of these methodologies would be field tested to assure their viability, but that technical assistance can also be provided through the RO.
- The RSC called upon the Global Office to ensure that available resources are made available to advise countries on the appropriate application of the research and to consider the available skills in the country when advising. It was recommended that the Global Office produce Handbooks as a way to provide countries with guidelines to guide the application of new methodologies resulting from the research.

10. AGENDA ITEM 9 – for approval: Review of Governance structure under the RSC

Introduction: The RSC was requested to review the Terms of Reference (TOR) of the RSC and endorse recommendations that would facilitate: (i) rotation of country members after 2.5 years; (ii) rotation of chair and deputy chair; (iii) replacement of member organizations; and (iv) the addition of new members.

Discussion:

- The TOR of the RSC (Annex 3) states that the country representatives will serve a term of five years, with half of the membership to be rotated every 2.5 years. The RSC was reminded that this rotation is scheduled to occur in September 2015, where four member countries will be rotated out. To prepare for this turnover, the RSC was requested to endorse recommendations to facilitate this process: (i) maintain the number of country members in the RSC at eight members, and (ii) maintain the composition of country members with equal representation by sub-region and NSO/Ministry representatives. The RSC acknowledged and endorsed these recommendations.
- The RSC was also requested to review the policy for the rotation of Chair and Deputy chair per the implications of the GSC recommendation to rotate membership, which is composed of the respective Chairs and Deputies of each GS region. To facilitate this rotation, it was the recommendation of the RO that in September 2015: (i) the Current Chair step down; (ii) the

Current Deputy assumes the position of Chair; and (iii) a new Deputy be appointed (preferably from a continuing member). The RSC acknowledged these recommendations and endorsed them emphasizing that the new Deputy should be a continuing member.

- The current composition of the RSC membership was also noted to include members from one research (Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute [IASRI]) and one training institution (Asia – Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions [APAARI]). In noting the difficulties IASRI has had in participating in past meetings of the RSC, the RO recommended that the organization be replaced in the RSC with another training institution, namely the National Statistical Systems Training Academy (NSSTA). The RSC endorsed this recommendation.
- The RO and the RSC noted that in Asia – Pacific there exists additional relevant organizations that would benefit the implementation of the GS in the region if approached to be part of the RSC. It was recommended by the RO that the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), and the United States Department of Agriculture's National Agricultural Statistics Service (NASS) be extended invitations to be members of the RSC. The RSC fully endorsed the recommendation of the RO to approach these institutions and invite them as members of the RSC.

DECISION 8: *The RSC endorsed the recommendation that the current composition sub-region and NSO/Ministry members be maintained when countries are due to be rotated out in September 2015.*

DECISION 9: *The RSC endorsed the recommendation for the Current Chair to step down in September 2015, and to have the Current Deputy assume the duties of Chair. The selection of a new Deputy from current country members was also endorsed.*

DECISION 10: *The RSC endorsed the recommendation to replace the current research organization member, IASRI, with NSSTA beginning in September 2015.*

DECISION 11: *The RSC endorsed the recommendation to extend invitations to SAARC, ASEAN, and NASS to be members of the RSC.*

11. AGENDA ITEM 10: Any Other Business

Discussion:

- It was proposed that the following session of the RSC could convene in March 2015 with the objective to endorse the Activity Report for 2014 and to deliberate on the rotation of the RSC membership.



Annex 1: Provisional Agenda

Third meeting of the Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific for the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics

Bangkok, Thailand, 13 - 14 November 2013

Venue: FAO RAP Conference Room

PROVISIONAL AGENDA AND TIMETABLE

Thursday, 13 November 2014

09:00-12:30 **Briefing on the Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics in Asia and the Pacific**

12:30-13:30 *Lunch break*

13:30-14:00 **Registration**

14:00-14:10 **Introduction**

- Welcome by the chair
- Introductions
- Adoption of Agenda/Timetable

14:10-14:25 **Agenda Item 1 – Activity Report from the Regional Office (RO)**

By Mr Allan Nicholls [Regional Coordinator, FAO RAP]

- Activities to date

14:25-15:15 **Agenda Item 2 – Technical Assistance Activity Report from the Regional Office**

By Mr Dalip Singh [Technical Assistance Statistician, FAO RAP]

- Activities since the last meeting
- Immediate Future Plan of Action

15:40-16:30 **Agenda Item 3 – Selection of additional implementing countries in 2015**

Introduction: Mr Anthony Burgard [FAO RAP]

Objectives: To obtain confirmation of additional countries for 2015

17:30-19:30 *Dinner*



Friday, 14 November 2014

09:30-10:00 Agenda Item 4 – Training Activity Report from SIAP

By Ms Margarita Guerrero [SIAP]

10:00-10:30 Agenda Item 5 – ADB Activities in Support of Improving Agricultural and Rural Statistics

By Ms Dalisay Maligalig [ADB]

10:30-11:00 *Coffee break*

11:00-11:40 Agenda Item 6 – Discussion of Country Proposals

By Mr Allan Nicholls [Regional Coordinator, FAO RAP]

11:40-12:10 Agenda Item 7 – Annual Workplan and Budget for 2015

By Mr Allan Nicholls [Regional Coordinator, FAO RAP]

12:10-13:30 *Lunch break*

13:30-14:00 Agenda Item 8 – Proposed additional research topics

By Mr Christophe Duhamel [Global Coordinator, FAO HQ]

14:00-14:30 Agenda Item 9 – Review of Governance structure under the RSC

- Tenure and role of the Chair, Deputy Chair, and country representatives

14:30-14:50 Agenda Item 10 – Any Other Business

- Timing of future meetings
- Agenda, venue and time of next meeting

14:50-15:00 Agenda Item 11 – Way forward and Conclusions

Introduction by Allan Nicholls [Secretary, RSC]

- Summary and recommendations



Annex 2: List of Participants

**Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics
Regional Steering Committee for Asia and the Pacific
Third Meeting: 13-14 November 2014
Venue: FAO RAP Conference Room**

LIST OF MEMBERSHIP
(including those not in attendance)

No.	COUNTRY	NAME	POSITION	ORGANIZATION
MEMBERS				
1	China	Mr Wei Zhou	Consultant	Department of Rural Surveys, National Bureau of Statistics of China
2	Fiji	Ms Sera Baleinailaga Bose Namata	Principal Economic Planning Officer	Ministry of Agriculture
3	India	Mr Rajeev Lochan	Adviser	Directorate of Economics & Statistics, Ministry of Agriculture
4	Japan	Mr Nobunori Kuga	Senior Statistician	Statistics Department, Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries
5	Philippines	Mr Romeo Recide	Director	Bureau of Agricultural Statistics, Department of Agriculture
6	Samoa	Ms Noataga Edith Faaola	Principal Statistician	Samoa Bureau of Statistics
7	Sri Lanka	Mr Amara Satharasinghe	Additional Director General	Department of Census and Statistics
8	Viet Nam	Ms Do Thi Thu Ha	Deputy Director of Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery Department	Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Statistics, General Statistics Office, Ministry of Planning and Investment
9	APAARI	Ms Chanerin Maneechansook	Program Assistant	Asia Pacific Association of Agricultural Research Institutions, Thailand
10	IASRI		Head of Division	Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, India
11	SPC	Ms Anna Fink	Agricultural Statistician	Secretariat of the Pacific Community
12	DFID	Mr Kenny Bambrick	Head of Profession for Statistics & Team Leader, Global Statistics Partnerships Team	Department for International Development
13	ADB	Ms Dalisay S. Maligalig	Principal Statistician	Asian Development Bank
14	UNESCAP-	Ms Margarita Guerrero	Director	Statistical Institute for Asia and the Pacific

	SIAP			
15	FAO	Mr Mukesh Srivastava	Senior Statistician	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
No.	COUNTRY	NAME	POSITION	ORGANIZATION
Observers				
1	FAO	Mr Christophe Duhamel	Global Office Coordinator	FAO Head Quarter Statistics Division
2	FAO	Mr Andrew Sobey	Budget Holder, FPG	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
3	FAO	Mr Allan Nicholls	Regional Office Coordinator	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
4	FAO	Mr Dalip Singh	Technical Assistance Statistician	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
5	FAO	Mr Anthony Burgard	Consultant	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
6	FAO	Mr Yohei Kunikane	Technical Officer	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
7	FAO	Ms Saikwan Thoedkiatisak	Secretary to Senior Statistician	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
8	FAO	Ms Waraporn Onnom	Secretary	FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific



Annex 3: Terms of reference for the Regional Steering Committee

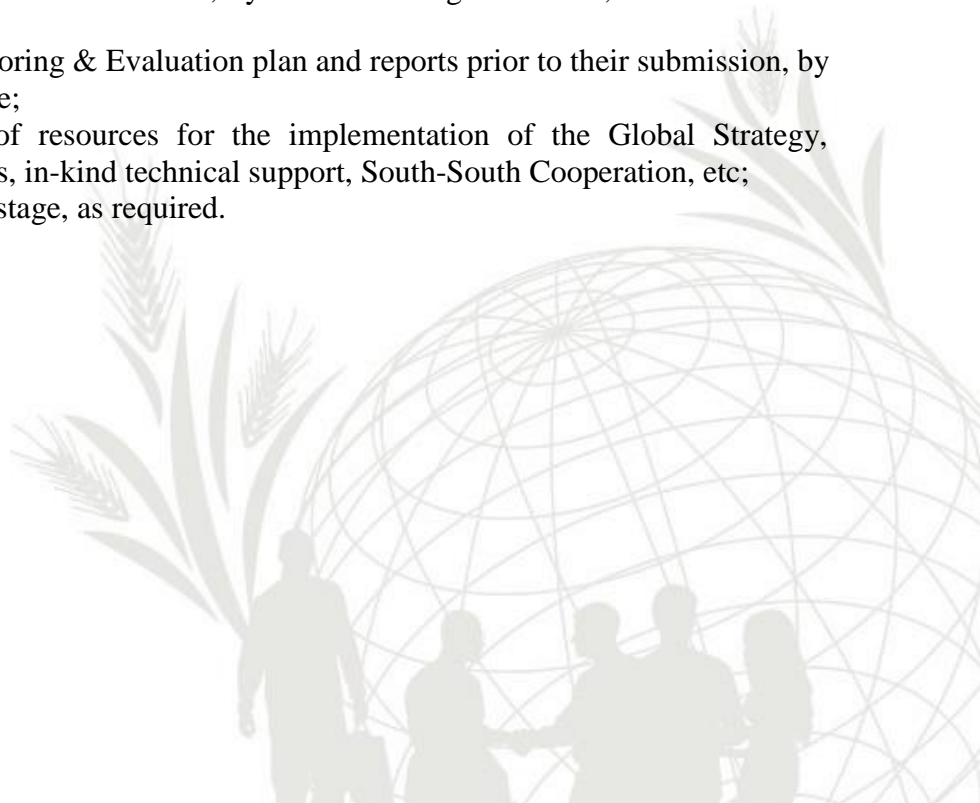
The Regional Steering Committee is the ultimate decision-making body at regional level. The RSC will provide guidance and oversight, within the framework defined by the GSC and consistent with relevant funding agreements, for the implementation of the regional and country activities defined in the Regional Plan.

In addition, the RSC will seek to achieve coordination of activities and interventions that are not funded through the Trust Fund, but are of significant relevance for the implementation of the Global Strategy. Interventions of this nature include all relevant interventions that are funded through bilateral arrangements, self-funding modalities or any other activities outside the Trust Fund mechanism.

The RSC will meet at least once annually to monitor progress in the implementation of the Regional Plan and evaluate its impact. Additional meetings of the RSC may be held, as required.

Specifically, the RSC will:

- a) Ensure coordination and integration of the implementation of the Global Strategy with other related statistical capacity development activities for synergy, complementarities and greater impact at the regional level;
- b) Approve the Regional Action Plan (including budget and log-frame) prior to its submission to the Global Steering Committee – the Regional Action Plan will be submitted by the Regional Office (RO), through the Global Office;
- c) Approve the annual work-plans (and any substantial modification) of the implementing partners prior to their submission to the Global Steering Committee for requesting disbursement of funds;
- d) Decide on allocation of funds received between regional and country level activities as well as among the countries, on the basis of the approved work-plans;
- e) Monitor progress in the implementation of the Regional Action Plan;
- f) Review and approve the annual narrative and financial reports prepared by the implementing partners, prior their submission to the GSC, by the RO through the GEB, the GO and the Fund Administrator;
- g) Approve the regional Monitoring & Evaluation plan and reports prior to their submission, by the RO, to the Global Office;
- h) Support the mobilization of resources for the implementation of the Global Strategy, including financial resources, in-kind technical support, South-South Cooperation, etc;
- i) Review its functions at any stage, as required.



Composition

The composition of the RSC will include 15 representatives from countries, resource partners, regional organizations, regional Participating Partners, FAO and selected experts. More specifically, the membership of the RSC will include:

- Two countries from each of four subregions [South and South-West Asia; South-East Asia; East & North-East Asia; Pacific]; maximum one representative per country, and ensuring a balanced representation of national statistical offices and ministries of agriculture;
- Implementing partners ADB, FAO RAP and ESCAP;
- Secretariat for the Pacific Community (SPC)
- One donor representative.
- One training and one research institution;

Term for country representatives will be 5 years with half of the membership to be rotated every 2.5 years. At the establishment, four country representatives will hence be members for a term of 2.5 years and four representatives for a full term of 5 years.

Rules of decision

Decisions of the RSC will be taken by consensus. If all efforts fail to reach consensus, decisions will be taken by a simple majority vote, provided that decisions of the RSC [that have a bearing on the Trust Fund] shall not be taken without the consent of donors of the Trust Fund.

Reporting

There will be a multi-reporting mechanism that will allow reports to be received and acted upon by different structures, including the following:

- Committee on Statistics of ESCAP, which will also report to the UN Statistical Commission as well as the ESCAP Commission;
- APCAS;
- Governing Board of ADB; and
- Global Steering Committee.

