

Global Strategy

IMPROVING AGRICULTURAL AND RURAL STATISTICS

IN **ASIA PACIFIC**



Guidelines on SPARS

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Workshop on SPARS, Bangladesh, 15 November 2015





SPARS Objectives

SPARS: Strategic Plan for Agricultural and Rural Statistics

To provide countries with a basis for

- Understanding the impact of agriculture policy on statistical priorities
- Identifying data needs, gaps, deficiencies, duplications and inconsistencies
- Defining future short- and long-term statistical programs and interventions
- Use SPARS to complement aspects of the NSDS

SPARS design process

1. Launching/Preparing Phase

- Understanding, acknowledging, committing
- Building constituency
- Integrating the SPARS in the NSDS
- Roadmap

2. Assessment Phase

3. Planning Phase

- Vision and Mission
- Strategic Goals and Outputs
- Action Plan



Overview - Design process

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1. Understanding – Recognizing - Committing

- to understand the **importance of statistics** to the economy of the country and that the current systems do not always meet demand for information
- to recognize that **strategic planning is necessary** to bring change to collectively manage critical weaknesses and effectively use scarce resources
- **Government to commit** to long-term sustainable support for activities identified in SPARS

2. Building the constituency (1)

- i. decide **WHO** is managing the overall process of the SPARS:
 - Clarify roles of the BBS, MoA and other ministries as soon as possible.
- ii. build a **constituency** on several (2) levels;
 1. A Steering Committee on Agriculture Statistics (SCA): relevant representatives of significant stakeholders
 2. A Technical Working Committee on Agriculture Statistics (TWA) : permanent Secretariat of the SCA, SPARS coordinator (Ms Sultana), **sub-sector representatives**
 - Build on existing coordination structures (National Council for Statistics of NSDS Inter-Agency Committee)
 - Assign Roles and Responsibilities, **ToR**

2. Building the constituency (2)

- iii. establish a **small Design team**:
 - One national consultant
 - Support from an international consultant
 - **SPARS Coordinator**: a high level manager to lead the team, be the focal point in the TWA, represent agriculture in the **NSDS** interagency committee
- iv. identify and engage stakeholders. **At least one high profile champion** for advocacy, policy and strategy:
 - increase funding, extending use of statistical information to policy and decision-making



3. Integrating SPARS into NSDS

Clarify how the SPARS will be **integrated** in the **NSDS** process;

- The approach will depend on the **NSDS status**: whether **in place**, under design or not in place ..

Integration with the NSDS should help:

- Develop a master sampling frame and a common data management system
- Align calendars

4. Preparing the roadmap

A **roadmap** to develop the SPARS in Bangladesh has already been prepared and endorsed. It covers:

- Organisation of work with activities, schedules, resources.
 - what to do, who, when, how?
 - Participatory and inclusive: stakeholders and subsectors
- Composition and roles of
 - Steering Committee
 - Technical Working Group
- Logical Framework

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Assessment phase

Assessing the agricultural statistical system is a **key phase**:

- input in setting strategic objectives and action plans
- benchmark to measure progress
- advocate support and capacity building among national and international partners

Assessment in Bangladesh

- Assessment in Bangladesh has largely been done through the IdCA process
- Findings in the IdCA will guide areas where improvements are needed
 - Key findings will be described in the next presentation
- Quick review may be needed at start of SPARS development

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Planning Phase

Results-based management approach in 4 levels:

1. Start with your **vision** and **mission** statements
2. Set your **strategic goals**/outcomes contributing to the vision and mission
3. Define the corresponding **outputs**
4. Design an **Action plan** describing the **activities** to produce the outputs

Use the results chain as a logframe to plan, monitor and evaluate results



Mission and Vision

Where do we want to be in 5-10 years?

What is our business?

- Build a **compelling vision** for your future that contains goals, values, beliefs and expected outcomes
- The mission that creates a **commonality of interest**, that describes the purpose, customers, products, markets, philosophy.

Strategic goals and outputs

Goals = accomplishments to achieve

- what is absolutely important and feasible, not what is desirable
- Structural changes, linked to weaknesses in the evaluation
- Remember that performance will be measured against strategic goals

Strategic goals -> outputs -> activities



Examples of Strategic Goals

- Improving coordination, management and legal framework of statistics
- Strengthening statistical processes and operations and improving their quality
- Meeting the national demand and matching the international requirements
- Developing a comprehensive HR strategy
- Investing in statistical and physical infrastructure
- Establishing better partnerships
- Developing a sector-wide financing strategy.



Action plan

- tools for internal business management;
- tool to negotiate resources with government/donors

Structured document including:

1. Core action plan
2. Overall budget
3. Calendar of censuses and surveys
4. Advocacy-Communication Plan
5. (M&E framework)
6. (Financing Plan)

1. Core Action Plan

- Must be **realistic**. Focus on few priorities
- Must take into account the **ongoing statistical programme**, activities in the **NSDS** and the changes needed
- Detailed in the first 2 years, can be approximate in later years
- Must cover a **list of activities organized by outputs**
 - Who will do what? When? How? In which order? For what?
 - Dependencies in activities must be identified for a better schedule

N.B. The Action Plan is a living document

2. Core Budget

The Action Plan must be underpinned by a **Core Budget**

- Split current costs/investment by implementing action
- Describe how resources will be used, by main expenditure items,
- Break-down by sub-sectors and activities
- Specify the expected burden on the national budget or external financing requirements

Costing the SPARS can be difficult

3. Calendar of Censuses and Surveys

Example: Tanzania

Survey Name	Frequency	Year				
		2014/15	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
Census of Population and Dwellings	10 yearly					
Agricultural Sample Census	10 yearly		●			
Annual Agriculture Sample Survey	Annual	Pilot		Rollout	●	Expanded Module
National Panel Survey – LSMS ISA	2 yearly	●		●		●
Household Budget Survey	5 yearly				●	
NBS Quarterly Production Questionnaire	Quarterly or Annually	●	●	●	●	●
Crop Forecasting and Early Warning	Bi-weekly	●	●	●	●	●
Price monitoring routine collections	Wholesale (3x week); Retail –monthly; Livestock- weekly	●	●	●	●	●
Trade data routine collection		●	●	●	●	●
Fisheries Routine Data Collection		●	●	●	●	●



Calendar of Censuses and Surveys: Example: Kenya

Survey name	Frequency	Year					
		2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
Census of agriculture and livestock	Decennial						
Census of livestock slaughter	Decennial						
Census of horticulture production	5 yearly						
Census of Tree Cover	3 Yearly						
Kenya integrated household budget survey	5 yearly						
Agricultural and livestock production (household and large farms) survey	5 yearly						
Milk production survey	5-yearly						
Cost of agricultural production survey	Biennial						
Crop forecast survey	Quarterly						
Producer prices survey	Quarterly						
Retail market prices survey (food commodities and agriculture inputs)	Weekly						
Fisheries catch assessment surveys	Quarterly						
Inland fisheries frame surveys	Biennial						
Marine and coastal artisanal fisheries frame survey	Biennial						
Aquaculture Inventory	5-yearly						
Livestock and product market prices survey	Weekly						



4. Advocacy and Communication plan

The SPARS is an opportunity for **statistical advocacy**

- Focus on the design phase to support discussion on ownership, users/producers dialogue, funding and governance

The **plan**

- must reinforce confidence from the public, raise awareness and inform stakeholders of the challenges ahead
- must identify target audiences and adapt the messages

An advocacy/communication plan is demanding and costly

5. The financing strategy

- **Joint strategy** with the NSDS where possible
- Statistical development is a political matter, decisions taken at the highest level.
 - **must be envisaged at the beginning of the process** and combined with advocacy at high level
- dialogue to set an **optimal balance** between national and external resources

6. Monitoring and Evaluation

A full M&E plan can be very demanding

Monitoring

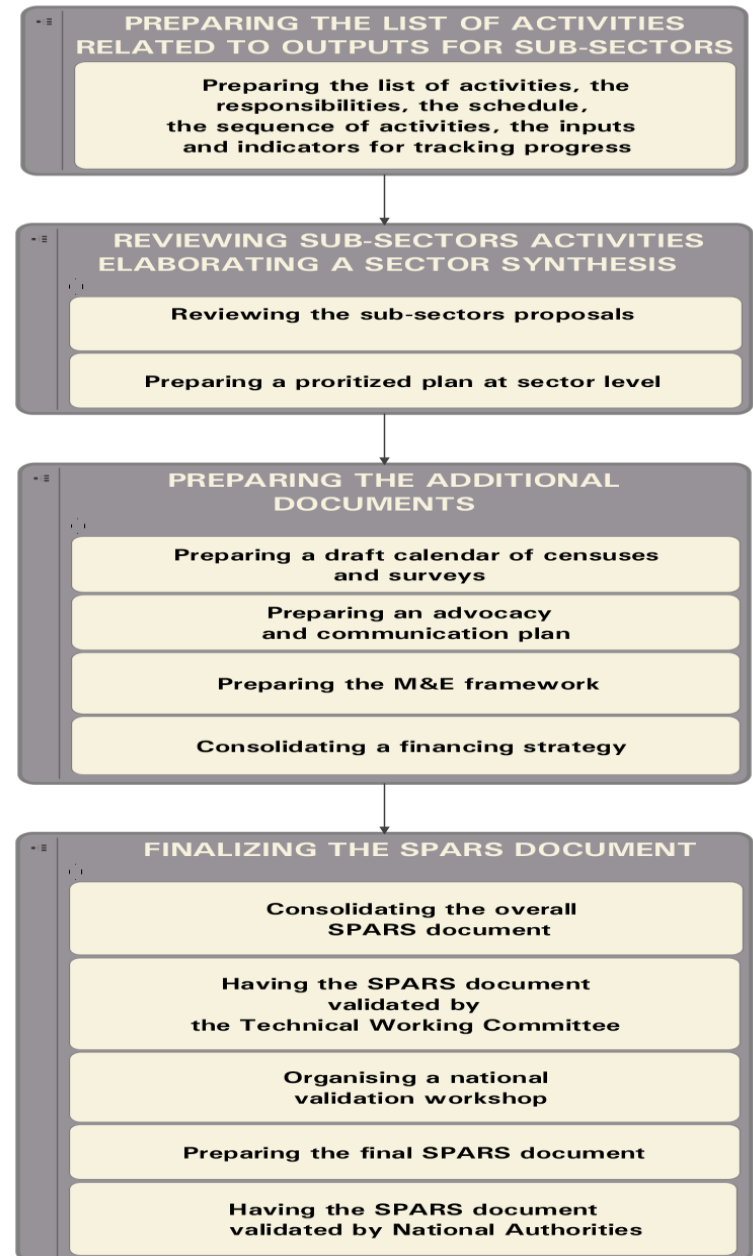
- Integrated in the logframe
- Choosing **indicators** is key: indicators must be well specified and require collection of basic information for the **baseline**
- **Frequency** and responsible **officer** must be clearly identified

Evaluation will judge the relevance, performance, and success of the SPARS

- takes place at few points in time: Mid-term evaluation, Final evaluation

Planning

How to do it in practice?





**Guidelines on SPARS can be
found here:**

www.gsars.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/SPARS-final-3007.pdf

Thank you

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