

Concept Note

Orientation Programme for Implementation of the Global Strategy (GS) to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics

14 November 2016

Bangkok, Thailand

Background

The *Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics* is the outcome of an international effort endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission and implemented in the Asia Pacific region by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP). The GS target is to cover 90 countries in the world and 20 countries in the AP region during 2013-2017. Implementation of the Global Strategy in Asia Pacific is guided by a [Regional Action Plan for Asia and the Pacific](#) (RAP).

Implementation of the Global Strategy in the Asia Pacific Region began in early 2013. As of 2015, fifteen countries in the region have commenced the implementation of the Global Strategy. These countries comprise of: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Fiji, Georgia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Maldives, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Pakistan, Samoa, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam. In addition, a separate regional strategic plan for Pacific Island Countries will be completed as part of the implementation in the region. In 2016, four more countries namely have been selected for implementation, namely: China, Mongolia, Malaysia and Tonga.

Better and effective implementation of the GS in the countries requires significant contributions from the stakeholders in terms of articulating their current and emerging data needs, making choices on the better statistical methodologies and long term vision for the system. There are also issues of complexity of the agricultural statistical system, the multiplicity of stakeholders and lack of mechanisms to coordinate statistical activities across sub sectors. Country experience suggests that the implementation will be much more effective if the major stakeholders (NSO and the Ministry of Agriculture) are sensitized before launch of the in-country work and who in turn can champion the cause of agricultural and rural statistics in the respective countries.

The Global Office of the GS has brought out a number of technical documents, reports and guidelines to be used at different stages of GS implementation. Some of these documents include Guidelines to conduct IdCA, Guidelines to develop SPARS, Technical report on Integrated Survey Framework, Technical report on identifying Most Appropriate Sampling Frame for Agriculture Sector etc. Sharing the conceptual framework reflected in these GS documents with the countries in the beginning of the process is expected to considerably improve their effective participation in the GS activities.

To enable countries to fully contribute to the GS activities, it is proposed to organize a one day Orientation Programme for the new GS countries selected for 2016.

Objective

The main objective of the Orientation Programme is to provide participants with an overview of the GS activities, tools for assessing country capacity, guidelines for conducting in-depth country assessment, guidelines for developing and implementing SPARS and best practices on coordinating statistical activities. The programme will focus on the following themes:

1. Better implementation of GS activities in the countries
2. Better understanding of the need to identify National Minimum set of Core data and Guidelines for assessment of country capacity
3. Introducing Strategic Planning approach for agricultural statistical systems and better understanding of SPARS Guidelines and SPARS process
4. Developing constituency to promote agricultural statistics and better coordination between NSO and line ministries

Outputs

Expected Outputs of the programme are:

1. National Strategy Coordinators are sensitized for better and collaborative implementation of the GS activities
2. Shared vision with National Strategic Coordinators on SPARS development and implementation process
3. Champions to advocate the cause of improvement of agricultural and rural statistics

Participants

Participants of the meeting will include the National Strategy Coordinator nominated from each new GS implementing country: China, Mongolia, Malaysia, Pakistan and Tonga. A total of about 24 participants are expected to attend the event.

Duration

The programme is scheduled for one day on 14 November 2016.

Venue

The programme will be organized in Bangkok, Thailand.