



Concept Note

Workshop on Statistical Capacity of countries to monitor the Sustainable Development Goals related to Agricultural and Rural Statistics and Adoption of new cost-effective methods developed under the Global Strategy *Bangkok, Thailand, 15-16 November 2016*

Background

FAO has played a key role in the Post 2015 Development Agenda and the realisation of the resulting Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which inter alia aim at eradicating food insecurity and malnutrition, reducing rural poverty and promoting the sustainable and efficient use of natural resources for productive agriculture, fisheries and forestry. It is recognized that the SDGs and their associated monitoring indicators represent an immense technical challenge for member countries with regards to their current statistical capacity and resource availability. Countries in the Asia Pacific region in particular have expressed in international fora the need for technical assistance from FAO and its partners on localizing these Goals, and establishing a suitable monitoring system for reporting progress towards the SDGs.

FAO along with its development partners is thus committed to helping member countries in implementing and monitoring these goals and their associated targets – particularly those in relation to the mandate of FAO:

1. SDG 1 – End Poverty
2. SDG 2 – Zero Hunger
3. SDG 6 – Water
4. SDG 7 – Energy
5. SDG 12 – Sustainable Consumption and production
6. SDG 13 – Combat Climate Change
7. SDG 14 – Oceans, Seas and Marine resources
8. SDG 15 – Life on Land

Along with current FAO initiatives through the Multi-Partner Programme Support Mechanism (FMM) and the FAO regional technical cooperation programme, FAO has identified the [Global Strategy to Improve Agricultural and Rural Statistics](#) initiative as one avenue in which FAO and its implementing partners can offer technical assistance towards the monitoring of these goals.

The Global Strategy (GS) is a multi-partner initiative tasked to help countries improve their statistical systems through development and implementation of long term Strategic Plans

for Agricultural and Rural Statistics (SPARS). The plans will enable countries to produce an agreed list of core data for agricultural and rural statistics with quality and regularity. This list takes on a comprehensive definition of agriculture covering multiple sub-sectors including: crops, livestock, fisheries, aquaculture, forestry, water, and the environment. This coverage is noted to overlap with many of the themes of the SDG indicator targets, and it is expected that work under the Global Strategy can help countries to not only meet the monitoring requirements of the SDGs but also to improve the existing data that may feed into reporting of the SDG indicators. This project is currently being implemented in 19 countries of AP region.

The research component of the Global Strategy has further produced a number of technical reports and guidelines dealing with improved statistical methodologies for collection of agricultural and rural statistics. Improving availability and quality of agricultural statistics through the adoption of these new methodologies is an important output of the Global Strategy work. The adoption of these statistical methods could help countries prioritize their required technical assistance from FAO and other development partners.

Objective

The workshop will bring together the 19 GS implementing countries and other countries outside of the GS to facilitate a broader consultation on the current capacity of the countries to report on their progress towards the SDGs. The research component of GS, has developed cost effective tools/methods which will be presented to participating countries with a view to help them make an informed choice on the suitability of these methods specific to country situation.

The specific objectives of the Workshop will thus be to:

1. better understand the preparedness and the capacity of countries in producing agricultural and rural statistics to meet the reporting requirements of the SDGs;
2. sensitize countries on the scope and coverage of the SDG goals and their associated indicators, and;
3. delineate areas in which the Global Strategy can work to help countries meet the reporting requirements of the SDGs and the support that can be provided by FAO through various programmes and projects.

Outputs

Expected Outputs of the meeting are:

1. Orientation of SDGs related to agriculture and rural statistics to the participating countries for planning the surveys/studies required for SDG monitoring.
2. Best practices regarding planning for the SDG reporting requirements will be shared by country participants.
3. New cost effective tools developed by GS will be shared with the participating countries.
4. Country participants will inform FAO and its development partners on the areas of technical assistance required and will be a basis to implement training programmes in the region and also feed into FAO country programming frameworks.

Participants

Participants of the Workshop will include:

- Experts from international organizations FAO, ADB, UNESCAP, USDA
- Experts from countries/organizations (NSO/MOA) which have best practices to share.
- National Strategic Coordinators from selected countries in the region where GS work is in progress.
- A total of about 60 participants are expected to attend the event.

Duration

The workshop will be organized for two days from 15 - 16 November in Bangkok. The first day will focus on SDG monitoring and second day will focus on cost effective tools developed under GS.

Venue

The Workshop will be held in Bangkok, Thailand.